ASBURY UNIVERSITY
Academic Excellence & Spiritual Vitality

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe:

1. That the Scripture of both the Old and New Testaments constitute the divinely inspired Word of God, that they are inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the final authority for truth and life.
2. That all truth is a unity since it originates in God, and that God imparts it to man through His revelation in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in nature.
3. That there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
4. That Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
5. That Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture, that His atonement is for the whole human race, and that whosoever repents and believes through faith in Him is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.
6. That man was created in the image of God, that man fell into sin through disobedience and "so death passed upon all men for they all sinned" (Romans 5:12), that all human beings are born with a bent toward sinning, and in all case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in need of being converted.
7. That entire sanctification is the act of divine grace, through the baptism with the Holy Spirit, by which the heart is cleansed for all sin and filled with the pure love of God. This is a definite, instantaneous work of grace, subsequent to regeneration, wrought in the heart of a believer, resulting from full consecration and faith in the cleansing merit of blood of Jesus Christ.
8. That the Holy Spirit bears witness both to the new birth and the entire sanctification enables the Christian to live a godly life, to grow in the graces of the Spirit, and to walk in His holy commandments blameless.
9. That the church is the body of Christ, and that all who are united by faith to Him are its members and love one another out of pure hearts.
10. That the crucified body of the Lord was resurrected, that He ascended into heaven, and that His return will be personal, and is imminent.
11. That there will be the bodily resurrection of the just to everlasting blessedness, and of the unjust to everlasting punishment.

THE CORE VALUES OF OUR GLOBAL MISSION

We hold to a set of core values that, when fully integrated, give Asbury University trustees, administrators, faculty, students, and alumni opportunities to make significant contributions to the mission of Christian higher education and the worldwide work of Christ.

I. University - Chartered as a nonprofit, charitable, tax exempt, 501(c)3 educational corporation, we have chosen post-secondary education, predominantly at the undergraduate level, for serving the purposes of Christ in each generation.

II. Liberal Arts - We believe that post-secondary education in the classic disciplines of Western thought including the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, Theology and the Arts is important in preparing men and women for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service. In addition, we are dedicated to equipping individuals with the professional skills and experiences necessary to make a meaningful contribution to and have an effective witness in the world of work.

III. Private and Independent - We seek to be contributing participants in the overall work of higher education with particular emphasis on the private, Christian arenas regionally, nationally, and internationally. We choose not to rely upon governmental support or individual denominational influence and/or control in achieving our mission.

IV. Accredited - We voluntarily submit to peer and other evaluation processes in order to enhance academic excellence and obtain the necessary certifications in the relevant higher education and professional communities, ensuring maximum opportunities of professional service and Christian witness for the University, its faculty, students, and alumni.

V. Holistic and Residential - As a Christian community of learning and living, we emphasize the development of the whole person physically, mentally, socially, morally, and spiritually. We promote a *principled centered* approach to life and learning, encouraging the development of lifestyles that will last a lifetime. We believe that residential education is a central component in meeting the developmental needs of the traditional University agepopulation.

VI. Christian - We desire to be a vital, contributing partner to the historic, Protestant, evangelical, Christian tradition placing emphasis on God's plan for a reconciled relationship with humanity through His Son, Jesus Christ. The love of God for all races and cultures and His willingness to make salvation freely available to any and all who will repent of sin and receive Christ by faith, motivates us to embrace a Biblically centered, multi-cultural environment. Our *Great Commandment* passion of perfect love for God and humanity fuels a *Great Commission* commitment to serve and help change a needy world.

VII. Wesleyan, Arminian, and Holiness Heritage - Five Biblical concepts, promoted by John Wesley and his followers, guide our mission.

- The Nature of Truth: We believe that *all Truth is God's Truth,* liberating us to pursue knowledge in any and every legitimate discipline of learning.
- The Authority of Scripture: In pursuing Truth, we are anchored to the *authority of the Bible* employing reason, experience, and tradition to develop a Christian world view that unites academic excellence andspiritual vitality.
- The Nature or Humanity: We believe that men and women are distinct beings created by God, endowed with a *free will*, and dependent upon His *prevenient grace* to exercise the freedom to choose and change responsibly.
- The Importance of Purity: We believe that the Christian's deepest need is for a *purification of heart and a liberation from the power of sin*, a personal Pentecost we describe as entire sanctification, in order to live pleasing to God. Sanctification is that instantaneous work and life-long process whereby we are cleansed by the Holy Spirit and gradually conformed into the image of Christ.
- The Call to Service: We believe that the primary motivation for seeking Truth is to live lives of meaningful, *sacrificial service* contributing to God's redemptive purposes for creation and society.

STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

We affirm that humans are beings created, in the image of God, male and female, and are of inestimable worth. As a result, we affirm that human sexuality is intended by God to include more than the contemporary cultural emphasis upon the physical experience, and is a gift of God designed to reflect the whole of our sensual and relational createdness. We believe that it is only within the context of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman that the full expression of sexuality is to be experienced and celebrated. This understanding of covenantal marriage, and the practice of celibacy within singleness, are the means by which we may experience a life of full human flourishing while glorifying God and honoring his Word.

We believe that the sin of sexual immorality (e.g., pre-marital sexual behavior, adultery for the heterosexually married person, polygamy, polyandry, pornography, incest, and all forms of same-sex practice) is about the behavior; it is not about the orientation or the attraction. As sinful fallen creatures, we are all tempted to sin, however, we do not claim those areas of temptation as right and good – and worthy of embrace and celebration. Rather, we unashamedly insist that by the grace of God we are called to live within the biblical boundaries of our sexuality and are empowered to live in obedience with God's will and alignment with His purposes as revealed in Scripture. We do not surrender the biblical standard of sexual purity to the prevailing secular culture, nor the definition of "male" and "female" to mean something more or different than an individual's sex at birth. At the same time, we do pledge to extend compassion and care, providing accountability and assistance as we support all members of our community— students, staff and faculty—in their desire to live consistently with the Christian teaching on human sexuality as described above.

Accordingly, Asbury University will not recognize or support campus groups whose aim by statement, practice, or intimation is to promote a vision of human sexuality that is contrary to this understanding of biblical teaching. Further, we believe the above affirmations to be consistent with the ancient and historic teaching of Christian scriptures around the world, which remains the guiding light for our practice.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Are you in harmony with the theological commitments of Asbury University?_____Yes _____No

_____

Signature required

On a separate sheet please complete an essay on each of the following:

Description of your Christian testimony and doctrinal understanding.
Description of your commitment to a Christian liberal arts educational program.