

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND MISSION

I. Key Characteristics of Regent's Christian Community and Mission.

Regent University is a Christian community that exists to exercise and express Regent's Christian beliefs.

A. Regent's Christian Beliefs.

The Regent Christian community is based on Regent's Christian beliefs, which include the Statement of Faith.

B. Representatives and Other Participants

Regent's Christian community is represented by all of Regent's trustees, officers, employees and student or volunteer leaders, each of whom serves Regent's mission and is an integral part of the community (each such person is described for purposes of this Statement only as a "Regent representative"). The other community participants, including Regent students, alumni, and volunteers, contribute to Regent's Christian community, but they do not represent Regent unless they are also employees or leaders. For purposes of this policy, with respect to students, a "Regent representative" is a student leader, who by virtue of his or her leadership position: (1) regularly represents Regent to outside audiences or who is seen as speaking for Regent's mission to internal audiences, (2) regularly exercise leadership in the context of distinctly Christian activities (such as student chaplain), or (3) is engaged in student government.

C. Christian Exercise and Expression.

1. *As a Community.* Regent's Christian community is an exercise and expression of both Regent as an institution and of each Regent representative individually.
2. *Through its Mission Based Activities.* Regent subscribes to the Christian belief that all of its activities, including the duties of every Regent representative, should express Regent's beliefs and be rendered in service to God as a form of worship. Therefore, all Regent activities further Regent's mission and are an exercise and an expression by Regent and by each Regent representative of Regent's Christian beliefs.
3. *All Regent Employees Are Ministers.* All Regent employees, regardless of position are called to serve at the University. As such, each employee is to be anointed with oil and commissioned at a ceremony. As such, each employee is deemed a minister to our student body.
4. *University Facilities.* The Chapel and all other Regent facilities have been built for the glory of God and dedicated to Him. They shall not be used for any purpose contrary to the Statement of Faith of Regent. Determination whether a use is contrary to the Statement of Faith shall require the spiritual determination of Regent, and shall be reserved exclusively by Regent.

II. Community Standards for Regent Representatives.

A. Roles and Expectations.

In response to God's calling on their lives, Regent representatives exercise and express Regent's Christian beliefs by working together to advance Regent's Christian mission.

Regent representatives are responsible for defining, cultivating, leading and/or representing Regent's Christian community as an expression and exercise of Regent's Christian beliefs. Accordingly, each Regent representative shall be expected to (i) model Regent's Christian beliefs for others, (ii) perform all of their duties as a service to God and (iii) comply with the following obligations.

1. *Christian Beliefs.* Each Regent representative shall affirm their agreement with Regent's Statement of Faith and other Christian beliefs and shall not subscribe to or promote any religious beliefs inconsistent with these beliefs.
2. *Christian Conduct Standards.* Regent representatives shall at all times (both during working and nonworking hours) endeavor to conduct themselves in a manner that affirms Biblical standards of conduct in accordance with Regent's Christian beliefs. Such conduct standards include Regent's Standards of Personal Conduct.
3. *Distinctly Christian Activities.* Each Regent representative shall be ready, willing and able to lead or contribute to distinctly Christian activities such as worship or prayer services.

III. Community Standards for Regent Students.

In furtherance of its mission, Regent's Christian community educates and equips for Christian leadership students who have agreed to learn and participate in the life of the Regent community. Although students generally do not represent the Regent Christian community, they do contribute to the community and to the accomplishment of Regent's mission. Accordingly, Regent students should understand the applicable Christian community standards and must agree to certain commitments as community participants.

A. Equal Opportunity Policy for Students.

Regent University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin, disability or veteran status in admissions, or in the administration of educational policies, scholarships, loan programs, athletics or other University administered student programs. In addition, Regent does not deny admission or participation in academic programs, scholarships, loan programs, athletics or other University administered student programs based on religion, except as necessary to comply with Regent's community standards for students.

B. Preferences.

To further Regent's mission of equipping Christian leaders and to support student contributions to Regent's Christian community (including student leadership and employment positions), Regent may give preference to students who subscribe to Regent's Statement of Faith in admissions, and in the administration of educational policies, scholarships, loan programs, athletics or other University administered student programs.

C. Christ-Centered Education.

All students must acknowledge that Regent is a Christian community and must agree to receive an education in accordance with Regent's mission, Statement of Faith, and

community standards, including Christian standards of personal conduct. Students in the School of Divinity in the following programs shall subscribe in writing to the Statement of Faith: Master of Arts in Practical Theology, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry, and students seeking the Military Chaplain certificate.

D. Christian Standards of Personal Conduct.

All students must abide by Biblical standards of personal conduct as set forth in the Student Handbook.

E. Student Leaders and Employees.

Only students who subscribe to Regent's Statement of Faith are eligible for employment or leadership positions at Regent.

IV. Additional Christian Community Standards.

A. Alumni, Volunteers and Contract Workers.

Alumni, volunteers and contract workers are not considered to be representatives of Regent's Christian community unless they are serving in leadership positions. Nevertheless, when such persons serve with Regent, they shall be required to acknowledge that they understand and agree to support Regent's mission and values. Regent reserves the right to give preference for such service to alumni, volunteers and contract workers who share Regent's Christian beliefs.

B. Current Trends.

In response to current cultural and legal trends, Regent has determined to articulate more specifically its Christian beliefs and associated community standards on the following subjects.

1. *Marriage.* Regent subscribes to the Christian belief that God has instituted marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. Regent shall recognize only such marriages for all policies and programs in the Regent Christian community.
2. *Sexual Conduct.* Regent University fully accepts the teachings of the traditional Biblical view with regard to the goodness of our sexuality, the importance of chastity, and the place of heterosexual marriage as God's intended context for complete sexual expression to occur (Gen. 2:21-24). Husbands and wives are called to exclusive sexual fidelity to one another and single persons are called to abstinence. Sexual misconduct that is prohibited includes disorderly conduct or lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct or expression, involvement with pornography, premarital sex, adultery, homosexual conduct or any other conduct that violates Biblical standards.
3. *Abortion.* Regent affirms the Christian belief that all individuals are created by God in His image. Regent accordingly believes as a matter of Christian conviction that no procedures should be performed or medicines taken to terminate a pregnancy and take the life of an unborn child (such procedures are referred to herein as abortions), except in extraordinary circumstances where other Biblical, moral principles prevail,

such as where medically necessary to preserve the life of the mother. Regent's beliefs also prohibit paying for or otherwise facilitating such procedures. As dictated by these beliefs, Regent as an institution shall not fund abortions in any manner, including through a health care benefit plan that covers drugs used to induce abortions, except in the foregoing extraordinary circumstances. In addition, Regent shall not participate through its health care benefit plan in a program that uses the plan as a means for providing drugs used to induce abortions.

Any requirement to facilitate abortions by offering such coverage or participating in such a program, and any penalty for failing to offer such coverage or participate in such a program, would directly and substantially burden and undermine Regent's exercise and expression of its Christian beliefs.

4. *Religious Activities.* Regent engages solely in activities that further its Christian mission. In addition, Regent believes that, because all knowledge comes from God, the learning process in all subjects can and should be one of spiritual growth. Therefore, Regent considers its instructional activities in all subjects to be a form of religious worship.

Regent distinguishes between exclusively religious activities and integrated religious activities. Exclusively religious activities include courses in Regent's theology and other seminary training (i.e., pervasively sectarian instruction), as well as devotional worship services such as chapel services conducted by Regent.

Integrated religious activities include courses in subjects taught by public and other nonreligious institutions (i.e., "secular" subjects). Such activities also include student activities (such as athletics and clubs) similar to those conducted at public and other nonreligious institutions. Regent teaches "secular" subjects according to academic standards applicable to all accredited institutions. In addition, Regent teaches its Christian viewpoints on such subjects as applicable and encourages supplemental instructional activities to foster spiritual growth, such as prayer.

Regent shall not agree to any limitations on its integrated religious activities.

C. Implementation

To the extent the President determines necessary or advisable to further Regent's mission or to cultivate Regent's Christian community, the President may establish additional standards based on Regent's Christian beliefs for the activities and programs conducted within the community or for Regent representatives or other community participants.