



# Code of Belief and Conduct

As an educational institution, the purpose of the University in all its programs and activities is characterized by a close adherence to historical Christianity. The University is defined by historically orthodox Christianity as expressed in the Apostle's Creed, Niceo-Constantinopolitan Creed, and Chalcedonian Definition. In this, we believe the Bible is absolutely trustworthy in all it teaches and is the final rule for faith and practice.

Our sincerely held religious beliefs are stated in our Statement of Beliefs, our Policy Statement on Social Issues, and our Community Life Code of Conduct:

## Statement of Beliefs

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative written Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

*- Adapted from the statement by the National Association of Evangelicals*

## Policy Statement on Social Issues

### Sexuality

We affirm that divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original design for creation and are meant for human good and flourishing. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27).

### Marriage

We affirm that it was and remains God's intent that marriage be a holy and exclusive union between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:18-25), and that this union be a sanctifying relationship that uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph. 5:21-33). God ordains that sexual intimacy occurs

only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4), and that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a legal marriage between a man and a woman.

We affirm that other forms of sexual intimacy (including, but not limited to cohabitation, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, or use of pornography) are immoral in the sight of God and violate God's intent that human sexuality is a holy union exclusively between a man and a woman in holy matrimony. (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We affirm that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

We further affirm that sin distorts sexual desires in all human persons but that we can, nonetheless, through faith in Jesus Christ, walk in purity of life, which is pleasing to God (Col 3:5; Rom 8:37).

We affirm that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture.

## **Sanctity of Human Life**

We affirm that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139).

## **Code of Conduct**

As a campus community, Great Northern University has many values that give direction to the way we believe we should live when together on campus and in our daily lives. These values are connected to our obligation and desire to live godly lives as described in Scripture. We wish to pursue God's best with joyful hearts. We also know that we are imperfect in how we follow God's ways. We must speak into each other's lives when that happens; sometimes with necessary consequences while maintaining grace and forgiveness with a goal of restoration. Here are community values that we will hold before one another:

### **Honesty – Academically and Personally**

As Christ-followers gathered at the GNU campus for personal, vocational and academic training, we must be people who can be thoroughly trusted. This must be consistent when we teach, in the way assignments are completed, and in how we speak to one another. Plagiarism and cheating both undermine honesty. (Ephesians 4:15, 25)

### **Edifying Language**

Our words have such power to encourage and build each other up. As we choose our words carefully, we have the opportunity to be a community that is consistently 'better' because of the words of truth, encouragement, and hope we speak to one another. This is just as true in our written words over email and social media. We also must resolve to develop effective interpersonal communication skills for confrontation, problem-solving, and setting appropriate boundaries. (Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:4)

## **Discernment in Dress and Appearance**

How we present our physical selves to the world can make a profound statement. We want to strive for an appearance that reflects uncompromising moral values, a statement of professionalism, and an expression of the personal value that is ours as God's image-bearers. This would include choosing clothing that is clean, well-kept, and not sensual in design. (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

## **Respect and Appreciation of the Differences amongst all Members of our Community**

Our differences in ethnicity, race, gender, customs, and traditions are a privilege to experience. We will embrace these differences in order to learn from, honor and enjoy one another. (Galatians 3:28; Acts 17:26-27)

## **Church Involvement**

GNU is not a church. Each of us must be involved in a local, Bible-believing church. Participation in a local church is crucial for expression of worship, personal discipleship and mentoring, and use of one's gifts for the benefit of the body of Christ. (Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 12:1-8)

## **Marriage and Sexual Purity**

In accordance with, and as defined by, our Policy Statement on Social Issues, members of the GNU community must affirm that sexual conduct is meant for marriage, and sexual misconduct is a violation of this Code of Belief and Conduct. Members of the GNU community must conduct themselves with sexual purity and marital fidelity by rejecting sexual immorality, as defined in that policy.

## **Appropriate Drug, Alcohol, and other Substance Use**

Use of alcohol must follow all applicable laws and be used in moderation, not ever to interfere with learning, employment, serving Christ and His Church, or each individual's witness. Alcohol is prohibited in and on campus without reservation; alcohol consumption and possession is also prohibited in GNU residence houses. GNU consists of students over and under the legal age limits; those who are of age are expected to manage that freedom wisely. Illegal use of tobacco, prescription drugs, and recreational drugs, (including marijuana) in any form is prohibited for GNU members at all times. Although there are legal uses of marijuana in the state of Washington, its recreational use is also prohibited for all members of GNU at all times, while enrolled or employed at GNU, except when medically prescribed. GNU community members are also expected to practice good nutrition, and pursue bodily health in their dietary choices, so as to honor their bodies (Romans 13:13; Ephesians 5:18).

## **Healthy Recreation and Entertainment**

Many forms of recreation and entertainment are enjoyable, edifying, and necessary for physical, emotional, and spiritual health. We wish to celebrate sports, the arts, and enjoyment of God's creation. At the same time, some expressions of the arts display mankind's fallen nature and can be destructive to humans and dishonoring to God. We will purpose to use wise discernment in the engagement of the internet, music, dance, drama and movies, comedy, literature, television, and video games. (Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:17)

## **Weapons-Free Campus**

The possession or use of any type of weapon on GNU's campus or university housing is prohibited. Weapons include, but are not limited to: firearms, ammunition, martial arts weapons, bows and arrows, swords, knives with blades over 4", stun guns, and explosives of any type. Anyone found in possession of any unauthorized weapon on campus or in university housing may be subject to disciplinary or criminal proceedings.

## **The Practice of Wise Personal Discretion**

With the desire for students, staff, and faculty to have a strong testimony before God and others, we expect the exercise of personal discretion from one another. The following discerning questions are the type that develop wise personal discretion:

- Will this violate the revealed will of God?
- Is this good stewardship of time and resources?
- Will this help me to follow Christ and grow in His likeness?
- Will this help my brothers and sisters follow Christ and grow in His likeness?
- Will this feed a known weakness or sinful tendency?

Because Great Northern University is a community built on biblical principles and comprised of growing individuals, a disciplinary process exists to create redemptive and educational outcomes from community life violations. A student who intentionally or unknowingly violates GNU's community values will follow a process which involves, at minimum, meeting directly with Student Services Officer, who will facilitate a judicial process. As this process is relational in nature, our hope is to foster growth in the individual while also protecting the health of the community.

While forgiveness may mean that the relationship is mended and restored, it does not imply the absence of consequences. Consequences may include campus community service, fines, probations, accountability groups/persons, counseling, suspension, dismissal, or whatever is deemed necessary. All disciplinary decisions will be made after careful consideration of what is best for the community and the student. Consistency will be strived for in dealing with particular actions and situations.

**Please indicate your agreement with and intention to affirm and uphold this Code of Belief and Conduct by signing below:**

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Signature

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Date

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Printed Name