

The following remarks offer a brief exposition of what we mean when we describe ourselves as Christian in The College Statement, the primary self-definition of the College Community. It does not intend to go beyond what is given in The College Statement, either explicitly or implicitly. Because the term *Christian* has been used to cover a wide range of views, it may be helpful to clarify our use of that term.

A HERITAGE OF ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS

The College Statement notes that we affirm central teachings derived from the Scriptures and embodied in classic Christian documents, such as the Apostle's Creed. Among these are the teachings that:

- God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God in three persons;
- God is the Creator and Preserver of all things;
- The Word of God was incarnate in Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he was raised on the third day, ascended to heaven and will return at the end of time to judge the living and the dead;
- The Holy Spirit works in the Church and in the world to overrule in human affairs and to bring salvation;
- The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament comprise the uniquely-inspired written Word of God, are true and reliable, and teach authoritatively about God, human nature, the way of salvation, and the life of faith;
- The church is the particular instrument, though not the only means, by which God calls people to salvation and the life of faith;
- All persons are born in sin, willingly commit sin, and cannot earn or bring about their own salvation;
- God faithfully calls and awakens people to the need of salvation;
- Those who repent of their sin and trust in Christ are freely and undeservedly forgiven of their sin, put in a right relationship with God, and given the Holy Spirit who sanctifies and transforms them; and
- The Christian life involves obedience to God's commands and service to Him and others.

A CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

The College Statement further affirms that the College is committed to the integration of a Christian world view and liberal learning. A Christian world view affirms that all truth is God's truth, and assumes that:

- Christian teachings, as those noted above, give perspective to intellectual inquiry and liberate, rather than inhibit, the intellectual quest;
- The world in which we live is rational, reflecting the mind and purposes of its Creator and Preserver;
- The human being, uniquely among the creatures of our material world, has the capacity to understand, to some degree, the world;
- One of our God-given tasks is to reflect upon the world with rigor, precision, and skill;
- The various academic disciplines, when vigorously pursued, yield insight and knowledge about the world;
- The methodologies of academic disciplines, when properly applied, are compatible with the Christian faith, and their findings complement rather than contradict its teachings;
- God's truth is both comprehensive and absolute; and
- Our educational task is to study and teach God's truth to the extent that we can come to know it.

A CHRISTIAN CONCERN FOR HUMAN VALUES

The College Statement also affirms that Roberts Wesleyan College is committed to a historic Christian concern for human values. As such, Roberts Wesleyan College seeks to provide a superior Christian higher education for every qualified person. The college environment supports their spiritual growth since we believe that all of our students:

- Are the unique creations of God, each precious and invaluable;
- Contribute to our campus through ethnic, racial, cultural, physically challenged, and gender diversities;
- Will fulfill the purpose of life only by glorifying God and enjoying Him;
- Are called through the free offer of the Gospel to repentance and faith and to a life of obedience and service;
- Are enriched and develop strong, positive, and healthy character through a life of piety;
- Have gifts from God through which they may serve Him and society; and
- Should be equipped, while at Roberts Wesleyan, for competent service in a broad array of secular and religious venues.