



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.