



ROBERTS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

Our Mission

As a community of learners committed to historic Christianity, Roberts Wesleyan University seeks to prepare thoughtful, spiritually mature, service-oriented people who will help transform society.

Our Foundational Assumptions

The mission of Roberts Wesleyan University is anchored in shared assumptions about:

Scholarship

- The world reflects the mind and purpose of the Creator.
- God desires people to reflect upon the world thoughtfully.
- Faith precedes and conditions all understanding.
- Knowing the truth requires people to act upon that truth.

Spiritual Formation

- The study of Scripture – the authoritative guide for faith and life – is the foundation for an informed Christian worldview.
- We affirm the richness of diverse traditions within historic Christianity.
- We honor the Creator through nurturing the life of the mind.
- Each member of the community is shaped and strengthened in faith through shared experiences.

Service

- Christian service derives from the Biblical mandate to love God and to love one's neighbor as oneself.
- Christian commitment to servant-leadership should contribute to constructive and restorative acts.
- Christian service responds to the diverse needs of individuals and communities.
- Christians learn and grow from serving others.

Our Commitments

In keeping with our mission, Roberts Wesleyan University provides an education that focuses on scholarship, spiritual formation and service.

Scholarship – As a community of Christian scholars, the University believes that learning is multifaceted and achieved in a variety of ways.

- **Discovery** – We provide opportunities for inquiry and investigation that contribute to intellectual growth and understanding.
- **Integration** – We provide opportunities to achieve an interdisciplinary understanding of issues and concerns.
- **Application** – We provide opportunities to learn by engaging problems in society.
- **Education** – We seek effective methods of teaching and learning.

Spiritual Formation – As a faith-affirming community, Roberts Wesleyan University provides an environment where people’s relationship with God through Christ can be nurtured.

- **Scripture** – We explore our world through faith perspectives that affirm the authority of scripture.
- **Tradition** – We affirm the richness of historical Christian thought and practice through the ages.
- **Reason** – We employ critical thinking to integrate our faith beliefs with our views of the world.
- **Experience** - We provide opportunities for transforming encounters with God.

Service – As a University attuned to the needs of the world, we seek to develop people of faith who will help transform the world through service.

- **Vocation** - We strive to discover how our God-given talents can lead to productive lives of service.
- **Service Learning** - We provide learning through service opportunities.
- **Global Perspective** - We encourage the development of cross-cultural competence and a global perspective.
- **Social Responsibility** - We foster socially responsible engagement in society.

Our Graduates

As a result of the opportunities provided them, the ideal graduates of Roberts Wesleyan University will be characterized by:

Thoughtful Engagement that includes:

- Sound choices leading to intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.
- Competence in their chosen discipline.
- Lifelong habits of inquiry, reflection and critical thinking from a Christian perspective.

Spiritual Maturity that values:

- An ability to articulate a Christian worldview.
- Excellence and integrity in work, family, service and culture, with Christ as an example.
- A desire to extend compassion, mercy and justice to all people.

Commitment to Service that reflects:

- The desire to participate as world citizens with a cross-cultural awareness and a global perspective.
- The knowledge and skills needed to contribute meaningfully to society.
- A clear sense of vocation through meaningful avenues of service.

Our Heritage

Roberts Wesleyan University, originally Chili Seminary, was founded by Benjamin Titus Roberts in 1866. Roberts was an evangelical Methodist minister and the first General Superintendent of the Free Methodist Church. He and the other founders of the Church affirmed the view of Christian teaching, personal piety and social action taught by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. The Church’s official teaching in its Articles of Religion clearly shows its roots in historic orthodox Christianity. Its heritage can be traced through the thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England, the Augsburg Confession of the Protestant Reformation and the great historic creeds of the early church, such as the Apostles’ Creed, back to the Scriptures and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The heritage of the University within the Free Methodist tradition has been of major importance in the development of its educational programs. Stating his purpose for founding the school, Roberts wrote, “While we cannot prize too highly the benefits of mental culture, we should not lose sight of that moral and religious culture which lies at the foundation of correct principles and good character.”

Continuing in its Christian heritage and its dedication to “education for character,” Roberts Wesleyan University remains committed to the mission of integrating a Christian worldview and learning.

Our Educational Philosophy

Roberts Wesleyan University serves traditional and non-traditional students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The University’s educational philosophy is built on the assumption that education must address the whole person as a physical, psychological, social, rational and spiritual being. An education at Roberts Wesleyan University presupposes both the complexity of the world and the diversity of human nature. No one method of inquiry or verification is regarded as the sole route to knowledge. Nor does one set of skills provide sufficiently for a life of service. A Roberts Wesleyan education is one in which students investigate the aesthetic, historic, philosophic, scientific and professional disciplines.

Academic pursuit is strengthened by the University’s historic Christian concern for the communication of human values and the development of the whole person. Through membership in a community of learners, students are encouraged to cultivate the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will prepare thoughtful, spiritually mature, service oriented persons who will have a transforming impact on society.

Roberts Wesleyan University

Board of Trustees Handbook

