

ROBERTS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY ETHOS STATEMENT

Roberts Wesleyan University is privileged and blessed to have on its Board of Trustees, faculty and staff persons whose very lives embody the *Mission Statement* (and other supporting documents) of the University. The trustees and employees of the University, through their devoted work, have pledged their energies and resources to upholding and furthering the spirit and content of the Statement, which clearly places the University within the Christian tradition. In that context, trustees, faculty and staff are expected to serve as role models for the students within the University community – role models whose Christian lifestyles are characterized by the positive virtues of honesty, integrity, justice and caring. Trustees, faculty and staff, as members of Christ’s kingdom, and as members of the University community, seek to integrate their identity as active Christians into every aspect of their professional and personal lives. Therefore, our ethos is primarily one that concerns itself with positive virtue and with the joy and love that naturally lead to, and that are results of, an engaged, committed life of service to God and others.

It is also true that the University places itself within that tradition of orthodox Christianity that believes, among other things, that the following do not represent the biblical ideal: the misuse of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, the misuse of drugs, and certain behaviors related to sexuality, including sexual harassment, the viewing of pornography and sexual activity outside of marriage, which is defined in our creed as a relationship between one man and one woman. Therefore, the University expects that all trustees, faculty and staff will respect the right of the University to consider such activities unacceptable in the modeling context of the Christian University and thus will conduct themselves in such a manner that their behavior will not undermine the University’s position.

It should be clear that the emphasis at Roberts Wesleyan University is not on what *cannot* be done, but rather on what *can* be done to help our students learn and grow spiritually, emotionally and intellectually in the context of a deeply committed Christian environment. Our goal is not to concentrate on the negative, but to highlight and proactively encourage the positive, organic and holistic ways in which devoted Christian trustees, faculty and staff, active in their churches and in the development of their own spiritual lives, can naturally and lovingly help students become agents for positive change as they serve God and society, in order that they might bring honor to Christ in our world.