

## Association for Christian Education of Frankston Inc.

### **Motto**

*"Unity and maturity in Christ"*

The College motto is taken from Ephesians 4:13, "Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

### **Vision**

*"To nurture and prepare young people for a life of responsive discipleship."*

Our vision for Bayside Christian College is to provide a genuine sharing community that enables teachers and students to develop their full potential as responsive disciples of Christ.

The College's function is to nurture and prepare young people for a life of responsive discipleship in God's Kingdom. Students will graduate confident in their identity in Christ, aware of their gifts and talents, and prepared to meet the challenges of living and applying the Gospel to an ever-changing world.

In our College community, the Bible is upheld as the Rule of Faith and Life. The College is a conservator of Christian values, a discerner of the world and a reformer of modern society. As a result, the College community can expect to grow together in a positive way. Our vision sees students, teachers and parents as images of God, on an equal platform.

We create a genuine learning environment. We work, learn, hope, pray, laugh and cry together with our eyes on the prize, as we await Jesus' return and His establishment of the new Heaven and Earth.

### **Mission**

The world belongs to God. Parents should raise and train their children to recognise, honour, respect and serve Him. Bayside Christian College exists to support and assist parents in their God-given task of educating their children.

## Statement of Purpose

The purposes for which the Association is established are:

1. To establish and maintain a school or schools (including an Early Learning Centre) to provide Christian education for children based upon God's Word and summaries in the subordinate Confessions of the Protestant Reformation: the Westminster Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dordt and in accordance with the principles enunciated in this Statement of Purposes and in compliance with any law or statute in force in the State of Victoria relating to the conduct and running of schools, colleges, Early Learning Centres or institutions for the education of children.
2. To ensure that employees are in agreement with the Statement of Purposes (including the Educational Creed) in order to faithfully carry out and conduct the education program and policies of the Association.
3. Solely for the purpose of carrying out the aforesaid purposes and not otherwise, the Association may exercise all of the powers of an individual and an Association under the Act.
4. The Association serves the community by providing education which is honouring to God. Through high standard teaching and learning in a nurturing, stimulating and Biblically-directed environment, students grow in their understanding of God's Word and in their commitment to serving Jesus Christ in all areas of life.
5. The school(s) conducted by the Association is a community which exists to help parents equip their children for effective, God-glorifying lives as Christians in the world by:
  - 5.1. leading students into the service of God and of others as a thankful response to the work of God in Christ;
  - 5.2. nurturing in students the development of a Biblical understanding of the world and of life;
  - 5.3. establishing an educational environment that is characterised by faith, hope, love, joy, peace and service;
  - 5.4. helping students to discover and develop their own God-given abilities and to recognise and respect those of others;
  - 5.5. showing students that knowing their strengths and limitations, is part of achieving a realistic, positive self-image; and
  - 5.6. promoting and striving for excellence in their lives.

## **Educational Creed**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (Proverbs 9:10)

## **Our Common Faith**

As a community united in Christ for the education of youth WE CONFESS with the Church universal that:

1. there is one God, eternal and indivisible, in whom are three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which three Persons are really, truly and eternally distinct, each one truly God, yet without in any way destroying the unity of the one and only God, who is one and not three;
2. this one God is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible. That, being tempted by the devil, man sinned by disobeying the express command of God, so repudiating his Creator and bringing God's wrath and curse on himself and on the whole creation over which He rules;
3. through the curse of sin, justly imposed, every man is cut off from communion with God and is dead in sin, wholly corrupt throughout the whole man, and utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good and wholly inclined to all evil;
4. God in His love for the world, sent his only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to be born of the virgin Mary, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, to live and suffer on this earth as a man under the curse of sin, though Himself without sin, to endure the fullness of God's curse on sin in his death on the cross as a ransom for many, laying down His life for the sheep so that all who believe in him should receive, without regards to their works or merit, full and free pardon, the riches of God's favour as his sons and heirs, and eternal life in Christ, being renewed by the Holy Spirit in Christ's likeness;
5. the Lord Jesus Christ, having died for our sins, rose again on the third day by the power of God, ascended to heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, who has put all things in subjection under his feet, appointing him to be Head of all things to the Church, which is His body;
6. at the time appointed by God and known to no man, this very same Jesus shall come again, revealed in power and great glory to judge all men, living and dead, and, having destroyed this present world, to establish the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness has permanent home;
7. when the Lord Jesus comes again all the dead shall be raised bodily, those who, by faith, have done well, to eternal life, and those who, through unbelief, have done evil, to eternal condemnation;
8. the risen Christ has sent the Holy Spirit into the world that by him redemption might be effectually applied, the divine purpose of salvation accomplished, and the Church equipped for its mission on earth; and
9. the redemptive activity and gracious favour of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is essential for the fulfilment of man's life.

## **The Word of God**

WE CONFESS that:

1. the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, acknowledged in the confessions of the Reformation is the infallible word of God and so is, in all things, our supreme standard by which our whole life is to be judged;
2. this Scripture, written by men moved by the Holy Spirit is itself God's Word written, God himself the author;

3. this Scripture is the integral divine Word by which God through his Spirit, draws us to and enlightens us in the truth, which is Christ Jesus our Lord, the eternal Word of God;
4. the same eternal Word who reveals himself in Scripture, reveals himself in all that he has created, so that the revelation of God is one; and
5. this Scripture is indispensable and determinative for our knowledge of God, of ourselves, and of the rest of creation, and also for the whole educational task.

### **Man's Life**

WE CONFESS that:

1. man, as God's image-bearer, is given dominion over the creation to rule it, manage it, and develop it under God, who is King over kings and Lord over lords;
2. man's life is fulfilled only in a life of free, willing submission to God, a life lived in harmony with the law of God for His creation, made known in the integral revelation of the Word of God;
3. being now fallen into sin, man can attain this fulfilment only through renewal by the Holy Spirit after the image of his Creator;
4. for man to attempt anything at all in independence of God or in ignorance of God's revelation is inherently destructive of man and of the creation over which he is given dominion;
5. it is man's glory, as God's image-bearer, to do everything so that the glory of God is revealed in his doing; and
6. the development of the child as the image-bearer of God is a central concern of the educational task.

### **Sin and Education**

WE CONFESS that:

1. human life in its entirety is religion, unfolding itself as service of the one true God or of a god-substitute;
2. in sin, man has repudiated God in favour of god-substitutes, with the result that he is cut off from the knowledge of God, of himself, and the meaning of the creation, so that the light that he supposes he has is darkness and his wisdom is folly;
3. apart from the man Christ Jesus, no man is exempted from this falsifying of knowledge through sin, but from conception all alike grope in darkness, being blinded to the meaning of life, of the world, and of man himself;
4. no area of human knowledge is free of this sinful falsifying; and
5. true education is possible only where the fear of God is re-established by God's grace in the heart of man as the indispensable foundation of all wisdom and knowledge.

## **Redemption in Christ**

WE CONFESS that:

1. God in Christ by the Cross has restored the whole creation to harmony with himself, making all things new in Christ;
2. although the fulfilment of this restoration awaits the future revelation of Christ in glory, yet, in principle, by the present work of the Holy Spirit in the World, it is a present reality to be reckoned with in faith in every area of life;
3. Christ in His redemption, by His Holy Spirit, is creating from among the old humanity in Adam, a new regenerated humanity in Christ, united in the Church which is His body, the covenant community bound to Him as Head;
4. this covenant community is God's appointed means, through the power of the Holy Spirit within the community, for communicating the redemption of Christ to the world; and
5. although, by the grace of God, men who reject the Word of God as the ordering principle of life, provide many valuable insights unto the common structure of reality, yet, because the religious direction of their thought remains radically opposed to that of the covenant community in Christ there can be no possibility of a synthesis of their systems of thought with the scripturally directed thought which Christ's covenant community is called to pursue.

## **Man's Task**

WE CONFESS that:

1. all things are created by God and, as His creation, remain under His government, upheld by His power, and existing for His glory;
2. it is man's task in his dominion over the creation to discern the being, shape, form and the several offices that God has given to every creature to serve its Creator, so that for the glory of God and the good of man, he may cultivate the creation in accordance with God's commands and in harmony with the laws which God in His faithfulness maintains in His creation;
3. the creation is neither chaotic nor meaningless, because God has graciously preserved and sustained it in spite of the disruptive effects of man's sin, and kept it subject to His law so that man is not a meaning maker, but instead may see the structure of meaning of God's creation;
4. man cannot truly know the meaning of this God-given creation without an obedient, Holy Spirit inspired understanding of Scripture as God's written Word, in the light of which, he studies the creation; and
5. the law of the Creator ensures a rich diversity within the unbreakable unity of the creation, which holds together in Christ who is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End of the creation of God.

## **The Special Task of Parents**

WE CONFESS that:

1. God has given the parents responsibility for the nurture of their children by discipline and instruction according to the Word of the Lord;

2. in accordance with this responsibility, God has given parents authority over their children to guide and direct them in the way of righteousness;
3. God has given children on their part a corresponding responsibility to honour, respect and obey their parents in the Lord;
4. faithful training of children means instructing them in the covenant revealed in Scripture by which God binds His people to Himself in wholehearted love, which covenant is the key to the fulfilment of all man's life; and
5. the responsibility for this nurture remains always the responsibility of the parents and, since all life is religion, it is the task of the parents alone to determine the religious character and direction of the education of their children in every aspect of their learning, yet as members together of Christ in one covenant, the whole body of Christ shares this responsibility with the parents.

### **The Special Task of the College**

WE CONFESS that:

1. true education is the preparation and equipment of the child for his office and calling as God's image-bearer and steward in this world;
2. a school where Christ is confessed as Head of the educational task in harmony with Scripture is a valid, but not the only expression of the life of the covenant community redeemed in Christ;
3. it is the special task of the College to lead the child to discern the meaning and structure of the creation under the guidance of the Word of God and to train the child in the use and development of his God-given talents, so that he may be equipped to serve Christ as King in all spheres of life to the glory of God and the well being of his fellow man;
4. the College, under Christ and by His Holy Spirit, is to advance the reign of Christ on Earth in accordance with its special task so that His Kingdom may come to expression here and now, though with much imperfection and weakness, and so that our Lord may find us busy in His garden when He comes in glory;
5. the College community, in the corporate functioning of which the authority and rights of parents in the education of their children are to be recognised, is not subject as regards its special task, to church, or state or any outside authority;
6. while the College is entitled to expect freedom from interference in its special task, it is required to respect and uphold all legitimate authority, in particular the authority of family, church and state and to encourage this respect in the child, according to the Word of God;
7. the authority of the teacher over the student, which is to be upheld by the whole College community, is given for the effective nurture of the child within the limits of the special task of the College, and is to be used only for the purpose with the recognition that all authority is of God to whom all who exercise authority must give account;
8. confessing Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, the redeemer and renewer of all our life, we pursue the educational task together, with confident hope and humble reliance on God who, for Jesus' sake, sent His Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth, which is Christ; and
9. with glad submission to God's Word as the guide of all our endeavour that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and the dominion for ever and ever.

**Amen**

## **About the Association**

The Association for Christian Education of Frankston Inc. was established in 1980 by a small group of parents, who, over 40 years later, were to become the pioneers of the Bayside Christian College. Today, the Association has over 70 members of parents, staff, alumni and community members who are passionate about the College's purpose and future.

Association members are active partners in the education of their children and meet with the College's Board once a term at a quarterly Association Forum. All parents and guardians are Associate members of the Association, however, to ensure the College remains true to its vision and mission, Full Association membership, which includes voting rights, is limited to practicing Christians who can provide a Pastoral reference upon application.

## **Eligibility for Membership**

An **Associate Member** must be a parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled and attending the College.

A **Full Member** must be a parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled and attending the College who has provided a Pastoral reference(s) and has satisfied all requirements of the Association.

An **Honorary Member** is a parent of a student(s) formerly enrolled at the College and/or may be a former student and/or otherwise as may be appointed an Honorary Member at the discretion of the Board and has satisfied all requirements of the Association.

Association members are required to be aged eighteen (18) years or over.

## **Application Process**

The "Application for Associate Membership" form is to be completed by the applicant and lodged with the Secretary of the Association or such other officer nominated by the Board.

## **Approval of Membership**

The Board shall either approve or reject the application within two (2) calendar months of receipt of an application. The Board shall notify the applicant in writing of the Board's approval or rejection as a member of the Association within fourteen (14) days of such determination. The Board does not have to give reasons for accepting or rejecting any application.

## Association for Christian Education of Frankston Inc.

### Application for Association Membership Form

The Association for Christian Education of Frankston Inc. membership you are applying for is:

- Full Membership** A parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled and attending the College who has provided a Pastoral reference and has satisfied all requirements of the Association.
  
- Honorary Membership** is a parent of a student(s) formerly enrolled at the College and/or may be a former student and/or otherwise as may be appointed an Honorary Member at the discretion of the Board and has satisfied all requirements of the Association.

Name:	
Address:	
Suburb:	Postcode:
Mobile:	Occupation:
Email:	

Do you have children currently enrolled at Bayside Christian College? Y  N

What involvement have you had with the College?

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Please list the reason/s why you want to join the Association:

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Please list any special qualifications, skills and/or interests that would be valuable to the Association:

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Have you been a member of any other Christian School Association? Y  N

Name of School:
Duration of Membership and Role/s Held:

**Declaration**

- I wish to join the Association for Christian Education of Frankston Inc. (Bayside Christian College) having read the **Educational Creed**
- I accept what the Association stands for and will uphold the Constitution's **Statement of Purpose**.

Signed:		Date:	/ /
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**Witness**

Association Member:			
Signed:		Date:	/ /

**Pastoral Reference**

As part of the application process, a pastoral reference is obtained for all Association members. Please provide the details of your church leader for the College to contact and acquire a pastoral reference:

Church:			
Pastor:		Phone:	
Email:			

**Office Use Only**

Pastoral reference obtained by:

Board member:		Date:	/ /
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Application interview conducted by:

Board member:		Date:	/ /
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Application Approved: Y  N       Applicant notified: Y  N