



Lifestyle and Christian Covenant Commitment

Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU), a coeducational university of the arts and sciences, is the official university of the East Central Field in the USA/Canada Region of the Church of the Nazarene with sponsorship and support from congregations in Ohio, West Virginia, and eastern Kentucky. MVNU is a community joined together to further the Kingdom as a Christ-centered University committed to spiritual, personal, and academic growth. The MVNU community exists to shape lives through educating the whole person and cultivating Christlikeness for lifelong learning and service.

Working in the MVNU Community is a sacred calling and privilege. As such, the quality of our relationships and our commitment to the underpinnings and theological tenants of the Church of the Nazarene are essential to our community. We hold to the clear and consistent expectations of mutual accountability, serving one another with humility, grace, and kindness, caring for those who are struggling, protecting the vulnerable, and resolving problems in a spirit of restoration and reconciliation.

Our faith in Christ is central to who we are as employees and the way of Jesus, as revealed to us in Scripture, should be lived out in our personal, professional, and spiritual lives. As active members of this community, we emphasize the desire and need for all members to live in a way that reflects the character and Lordship of Christ. The following guidance exhibits our continuing commitment to integrate faith and service in a meaningful and significant manner.

As members of this Christian community, we agree to live as people of holy love, embodying the great commands to love God and our neighbor. In pursuing Christlike character, we will nurture those attributes identified as the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Even as we embrace the fullness of love, we agree to set aside those things contrary to Christ's love, such as pride, jealousy, greed, lust, unrighteous anger, unforgiving spirits, discrimination, and prejudice.

A Christlike character, rooted and established in love, will also manifest itself in the way we choose to live. As members of the MVNU community, it is expected that we will actively participate in those things that form us into the image of Christ and reflect His kingdom to the world around us. Through our participation in the various means of grace, our commitment to a church body and its mission, our care of one another, and our generosity toward those in need, we bear witness to the Good News of God's kingdom. Recognizing the image of God in all people and life itself as a gift from God, we actively nurture, support, and protect life from conception to life's natural end. We also reject those behaviors that do not reflect our holy vocation as image bearers of God, such as lying, dishonesty, theft, gossip, slander, quarreling, returning evil for evil, sexual immorality (such as premarital, extramarital, or same-sex relations), and drunkenness.

Recognizing that we are to be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, including our bodies, our time, and our possessions, we expect members of the MVNU community to glorify God in all aspects of life. We believe the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, a gift to be respected and cared for in a spirit of thanksgiving. Therefore, we do not take part in habits or practices known to be destructive to physical or mental well-being. This would include the avoidance of tobacco in any form, the consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or substances such as marijuana, hallucinogens, or other narcotics not prescribed by a medical professional. We also believe that the entertainments we consume are formative mentally and spiritually. As such, we seek to be selective in our entertainment and recreation choices. In pursuit of the holy life, we reject that which is pornographic, profane, or blasphemous, and those entertainments that glorify violence, evil, and values contrary to the way of Christ. As faithful stewards of what God has given us, we choose not to participate in betting, wagering, or gambling in any form. For the MVNU community, these restrictions are not to be seen as legalistic burdens, but boundaries set by love for God and neighbor in recognition of the harmful effects they manifest in both the individual life and society as a whole.

MVNU MISSION

Mount Vernon Nazarene University exists to shape lives through educating the whole person and cultivating Christ-likeness for lifelong learning and service.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MVNU's educational philosophy and purpose are shaped by its Wesleyan Holiness theological roots, informed by the Bible, focused on Christ-likeness in every aspect of life, and defined by an emphasis on loving God with all of one's heart, mind, soul, and strength, as well as one's neighbor's as one's self. Students are nurtured and empowered through caring relationships with faculty, staff, and administrators; challenged to be a devoted disciple of Christ; drawn toward discovery of wisdom and truth in every discipline of study; prepared for leadership in various professions; equipped to be lifelong learners; and sent into the world to live out their faith by offering their hearts and lives in service to God and others.

AN EDUCATIONAL MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Mount Vernon Nazarene University is a coeducational university of arts and sciences and is the official university of the East Central Field in the USA/Canada Region of the Church of the Nazarene. The Nazarene churches of Ohio, West Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky sponsor and contribute financial support to the university. As an educational institution, the University stands in the Wesleyan evangelical tradition, as summarized in the "Articles of Faith" and "Agreed Statement of Belief" in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

The Agreed Statement of Belief reads:

Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rest upon the fact of their being regenerate, we would require only such avowals of belief as are essential to Christian experience. We, therefore, deem belief in the following brief statements to be sufficient.

We believe:

- In one God – The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- That the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.
- That man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined too evil, and that continually.
- That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.
- That the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race, and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.
- That believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- That the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.
- That our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

MVNU is a place where committed Christians pursue maturity in their faith and witness, a community of people growing together in Christlike character and holy love. It is also an institution of the Church of the Nazarene, and as such, is committed to the Articles of Faith, Agreed Statement of Belief, Covenant of Christian Character, and the Covenant of Christian Conduct as found in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*. As a member of this community, I affirm the following:

1. I understand the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* and agree that I will conduct my life within the spirit and meaning of that *Manual* (<https://2017.manual.nazarene.org/>).
2. I have read the Mission of Mount Vernon Nazarene University and will continue to support the University in its mission.
3. I have reviewed the requirements of Faculty/Staff stated in the *Faculty Handbook and/or Staff Handbook*. I will fulfill the requirements to the best of my ability.
4. I will support Mount Vernon Nazarene University, its purpose, and leadership.
5. I agree to accept and uphold the honor of my position as a Faculty/Staff member of Mount Vernon Nazarene University.
6. I have read this document in its entirety and will support and abide by it.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 20____

Signature)

(Printed)