

Dunedin Christian Schools Association Constitution

THE ARTICLES OF THE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the Association is "Dunedin Christian Schools Association Incorporated".

ARTICLE II OBJECTS

The object of the Association is to establish by way of purchase lease or otherwise, and maintain and staff, Christian Schools.

ARTICLE III BASIS

The final and fully authoritative standard for ruling the life of the Association shall be the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

ARTICLE IV CONFESSION

In response to the Scriptures by which the Lord God reveals to His people principles intensely relevant to education, we confess:

a. Our Common Faith

- i. We believe in one God, eternal in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the only living and true God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.
- ii. We believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the only inspired and infallible written revelation of God to man, and are the supreme authority in all matters of life and faith.
- iii. We believe in the universal sovereignty of God over all that He has created and maintains.
- iv. We believe in the providence of God, whereby He sustains the universe, governs the world, supplies the needs of His people and brings His will to pass.
- v. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, to have dominion over the earth and to do all things to the glory of God.
- vi. We believe in man's universal fall into sin through Adam's transgression and in his subsequent disobedience, guilt, condemnation and judgment before God.
- vii. We believe that God by His grace, and according to His good pleasure, restores to Himself and to His service, all who in true faith call on the Name of Jesus Christ.
- viii. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father; that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, crucified as a ransom for many, died and was buried, was raised from the dead and ascended into Heaven.
- ix. He is presently at the right hand of God the Father, and will personally return to earth in power and glory to judge the living and the dead, executing God's just condemnation on the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.
- x. We believe in the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to apply the benefits of Christ's redemption to individual sinners, working in them regeneration, faith, repentance, sanctification and glorification.
- xi. We believe in one holy and universal church which Christ the Lord and Head gathers, preserves and defends for Himself by His Spirit and Word, out of the whole human race.

b. Confessing Christ in Education

i. MAN'S LIFE AND TASK

WE CONFESS that all things are created by God and as His creation remain under His rule, are upheld by His power and exist for His glory;

that mankind, as the creature uniquely made in God's image, is given dominion over creation to rule it and develop it under God;

that human life in its entirety is religion, unfolding in service to the one true God or of a God-substitute;

that man can never be a meaning-maker in God's creation, but is instead called to experience and confess creation's God-given order and meaning;

that in fulfilment of his task, man is called to discern the many ways in which God calls each of His creatures to serve Him, so that man may cultivate creation in all its richness in obedience to God's commands and in harmony with the laws by which God in His faithfulness maintains His creation;

that education is the process of nurturing and directing the child, as a creature made in God's image, to the responsible and obedient exercise of this dominion, in fulfilment of His calling under God.

ii. THE WORD OF GOD

WE CONFESS that the whole creation finds its coherence and meaning in the only begotten Son of the Father, the Word of God through Whom all things were made and are continually upheld;

that the supreme standard for all matters of education shall be the written word of God, known as the Old and New Testaments, as these open our eyes to the activity of God in originating and ordering His creation through His Word and Spirit, and leads us to confess Jesus Christ as the Word incarnate;

that while the study of the Scriptures is no substitute for the study of God's creation, Scripture remains indispensable and determinative for our knowledge of God, of ourselves and of the rest of creation, and thus for the whole educational task.

iii. SIN

WE CONFESS that in sin man has repudiated God in favour of God-substitutes, and has therefore cut himself off from all true knowledge of God, of himself, and of the meaning of creation, so that the light that he supposes he has is darkness and his wisdom is folly;

that no area of human knowledge is free from this sinful falsifying;

that apart from the one sinless man, Christ Jesus, all men alike grope in darkness;

that disobedience to God is inherently destructive of man and of the creation over which man is given dominion, but that the creation remains continually upheld in grace in subjection to God's law;

that no human activity, including the educational task, can enable man of himself to fulfil his destiny or bring himself to salvation, but the redemption and renewal of human life lie in the power of the blood and Spirit of Christ alone;

God is re-established by God's grace in the heart of man, as the indispensable foundation of all wisdom and knowledge.

iv. REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

WE CONFESS that God in Christ by the Cross has restored the whole creation to harmony with Himself, making all things new in Christ;

that 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;

that Christ in His redemption, by the Holy Spirit, is creating from among the old humanity in Adam a new humanity in Christ, united in the Church which is His body, the covenant community bound to Him as Head;

that the 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;

that although by the grace of God, men who reject the Word of God as the ordering principle of life provide many valuable insights into the 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.

v. THE SPECIAL TASK OF PARENTS

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

that in accordance with this responsibility, God has given parents authority over their children to guide and direct them in the way of righteousness;

that God has given children on their part a corresponding responsibility to honour, respect and obey their parents in the Lord;

that 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;

that while parents may invite others to share with them in the nurture of their children, the responsibility for this nurture remains the responsibility of the parents, whose task it always remains to determine the character and religious direction of the education of their children in every respect.

vi. THE SPECIAL TASK OF THE SCHOOL

WE CONFESS that the covenant community redeemed in Jesus Christ expresses itself in many ways in this temporal world; a school where Christ is confessed as Lord of the educational task in harmony with the Scriptures is one valid expression of the life of this covenant community displaying in its own distinctive manner the rich fullness of Christ's redemption;

that it is the special task of the school to open out to the child the meaning and structure of the creation under the guidance of the Word of God, as part of the equipping of the child for the fulfilment of his calling in life in subjection to Christ as King;

that the team of teachers, as the body of educators in the Christian community, has the task, in obedience to Christ, of articulating the content of the educational curriculum and

seeking to implement it so as to lead each child as a responsible creature made in God's image, who must be accepted for what he is and as he is;

that the School, 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 very much imperfection and weakness, and so that our Lord may find us busy in His service when He comes in glory.

vii. THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL COMMUNITY

WE CONFESS that parents, with their children, united in Christ for the special task of the school, together with the team of teachers and those who as members of the Christian School Association share with them a common confession of faith, constitute a Christian school community that is not in subjection to state, institutional church, or any other human authority as regards its special task, but is subject to Christ who alone rules as King over all;

that while the school is entitled to expect freedom from interference in its special task, it is required to respect and uphold legitimate authority, in particular, the authority of family, institutional church and state, and to encourage this respect in the child, according to the Word of God;

that the responsibility of parents for the nurture of their children including especially their responsibility for those aspects of this nurture that form the special task of the school, is to be fully recognised and safeguarded by the school at all times;

that without diminishing the responsibility or authority of parents, the whole body of Christ, as one Body in the Lord, shares responsibility for the task of the school;

that the authority of the teacher, to which the student is subject within the school community, is to be upheld by the whole school community, is given for the effective nurture of the child within the limit of the special task of the school, and is to be used only for this purpose with the recognition that all authority is of God, to whom all who exercise authority must give account.

viii. CONFESSING CHRIST

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 confidence, hope and humble reliance on God who, for Jesus' sake, sent His Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth, which is Christ, and 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 dominion for ever and ever. AMEN.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

a. Requirements

All persons of age 18 years and over and who are in full agreement with Articles II, III and IV of this Constitution and who comply with the requirements set forth in the Regulations are eligible for membership.

b. Admission

The responsibility of admitting such applicants to membership of the Association resides with the Council.

c. Gravamen

It shall be the duty of any member who considers Article IV or any part thereof not to be in conformity with Article III to notify the Council in writing in order that the matter be given due consideration by the Association. The Council shall determine the matter only after consultation with the member.

d. Resignation

Any member shall have the freedom to resign from the Association at any time and shall cease to be a member. Any member who ceases to subscribe to Articles II, III and IV shall tender their resignation.

e. Expulsion of Members

The Association may at any time by letter invite any member within a specified time to retire for breach by him of the Constitution and in default of withdrawal to submit the question of his expulsion to a general meeting to be held within three calendar months from the date of such letter and at such meeting the member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation verbally or in writing and if thereupon two-thirds of the members present vote for his expulsion he shall forthwith without releasing him from any antecedent liability to the Association cease to be a member provided that voting at any such meeting shall be by ballot if so demanded by not less than five members.

f. Lapsing of Membership

Membership shall lapse after non-payment of the annual membership fee for three consecutive years. Persons whose membership has lapsed are entitled to reinstatement upon payment of unpaid membership fees.

ARTICLE VI COUNCIL

The Council shall be elected from among the membership of the Association and shall ensure that the Constitution is upheld and shall be the sole governing body of the Association. They shall be required to present an annual report of the Association's affairs to the membership.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Members of the Association shall meet annually or more often if necessary upon call of the Council as set down in the regulations, to approve the reports of the Council, to consider an approved budget, to elect members of the Council, and to transact all business included in the agenda.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCE

a. Accounts

The Council must keep proper financial records and file proper financial statements with the appropriate authorities in accordance with the relevant legislation. All monies received by or on behalf of the Association must be deposited with an approved bank or banks in the name of the Association. All withdrawals against an Association account must be authorised by any two of the approved signatories who will be the Chairperson, Treasurer, and one other Council Member. The financial year end shall be either; the thirty-first day of December; or any other date required by any relevant legislation.

b. Investment of Funds

The Association may from time to time invest and reinvest in such securities and upon such terms as it shall think fit the whole or any part of its funds which shall not be required for the immediate

business of the Association and to purchase and take a lease, freehold or leasehold properties of all kinds suited to the objects of the Association.

c. Membership Subscription Fees

Annual fees for membership of the Association shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting. On the recommendation of the Council and the approval of the Annual General Meeting, employees of the Association may be exempt from the payment of fees.

d. Borrowing Powers

The Association shall in addition to the other powers vested in it have a power to borrow or raise money from time to time by the issue of debentures, bonds, mortgages or any other security founded or based on all or any of the property and/or rights of the Association or without any such security and upon such terms as to priority and otherwise as the Association shall think fit but the powers of so borrowing or raising money shall not be exercised except pursuant to a resolution of the Association passed in general meeting.

e. Financial Report

The Council shall be required to present to the membership at the Annual General Meeting, a Financial Report including an audited financial statement and estimates of expenditure for the coming year.

f. Charitable Provision

Any income, benefit or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purposes of the Association. No member of the Association, or anyone associated with a member, is allowed to take part in, or influence any decision made by the Association in respect of payments to, or on behalf of, the member or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage. Any payments made to a member of the Association, or person associated with a member, must be for goods or services that advance the charitable purpose and must be reasonable and relative to payments that would be made between unrelated parties.

ARTICLE IX COMMON SEAL

The Common Seal of the Association shall be that appointed by the Council who shall be responsible for the safe custody and control thereof.

Use of Common Seal

Whenever the Common Seal of the Association is required to any deed document writing or other instrument, the seal shall be affixed pursuant to a resolution of the Council or of the Association by the Chairman and any one other member of the Council, thereby authorised to affix the seal; the persons so affixing the seal shall at the same time sign the document to which the seal is so affixed.

ARTICLE X REGISTERED OFFICE

The Registered Office of the Association shall be situated at Dunedin or at such other place for the time being as shall be decided by the Council.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be altered, added to, rescinded or otherwise amended at any Annual or Special General Meeting called for the purpose; such an amendment shall be required to have a two-thirds majority of those voting at two consecutive meetings, providing that those meetings are separated by at least nine calendar months.

ARTICLE XII DISSOLUTION

The Association shall be wound up on the resolution of a majority of the Members voting at a Special Meeting of the Association called for that purpose.

If upon the winding up of the Association, there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any assets whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other New Zealand charitable institution or institutions having an object, basis and confession similar to that of this Association, prohibiting the distribution of its assets among its or their members; such gift or transfer to be determined by a majority of the members of the Association.