

## STERLING COLLEGE'S MISSION STATEMENT, STATEMENT OF FAITH, AND FAITH PERSPECTIVES

### MISSION

To develop creative and thoughtful leaders who understand a maturing Christian faith.

### Our Faith

The board, faculty, administration, and staff possess an active and visible Christian faith, which encourages the entire campus community in our pursuit of a wholesome and practical Christian life. We personally trust and collectively bear witness to the one, eternal God, revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; John 10:30). We are redeemed from our sins by Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and it is by God's grace alone that we joyfully receive our salvation through a personal faith in Christ Jesus. God the Holy Spirit is active, providing us with God's sustaining presence and power, and working sanctification in the faithful. We believe in the life of the world to come in which righteousness will dwell and God will reign forever. We accept the inspiration and authority of Scripture (II Timothy 3:16) which directs our daily living and illuminates our minds, and we embrace the Church as the body of Christ and God's witness of His love in the world.

### Statement of Faith

- We believe in God the Father who created the heavens and the earth.<sup>1</sup>
- We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ<sup>2</sup> who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,<sup>3</sup> and born of the Virgin Mary,<sup>4</sup> Jesus suffered,<sup>5</sup> died<sup>6</sup> and was buried.<sup>7</sup> He rose from the dead.<sup>8</sup> Jesus ascended into heaven<sup>9</sup> and remains with the Father and the Holy Spirit to judge the living and the dead.<sup>10</sup> Jesus Christ alone is the way, the truth and the life.<sup>11</sup> There is salvation in and through no other.<sup>12</sup>
- We believe in God the Holy Spirit who is the comforter,<sup>13</sup> sustainer, and sanctifier<sup>14</sup> of all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- We believe that the Bible is God's revealed Word.<sup>15</sup> It is authoritative<sup>16</sup> and infallible<sup>17</sup> in all matters of faith and practice.
- We believe that the Church is the body of Christ<sup>18</sup> and God's witness<sup>19</sup> in the world.
- We believe that Jesus Christ will return<sup>20</sup> and claim His own, ushering in the new heaven and new earth<sup>21</sup> in which righteousness will dwell and God will reign forever.<sup>22</sup>

### Scripture References for the Statement of Faith

- 1 *Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:21-26; Acts 17:24-29*
- 2 *John 17:1-5; Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1; Acts 4:11, 12; Hebrews 1:1-8; Hebrews 7:25; John 10: 28-30*
- 3 *Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:34-35; Isaiah 7:14*
- 4 *Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:34-35*
- 5 *Matthew 27:24-37 Luke 24:25-26, 46; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Philippians 2:5-11*
- 6 *John 19:31-36; I Corinthians 15:3-8*
- 7 *Luke 23:50-56; John 19:31-36; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Mt. 27:57-65; Isaiah 53*
- 8 *Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 17:31*
- 9 *Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11; Acts 3:20-21; Ephesians 4:7-10*
- 10 *Ephesians 1:20-23; II Timothy 4:1*
- 11 *John 14:6; John 3:16-18; John 3:36*
- 12 *John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:4-5.*
- 13 *John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:7-10.*
- 14 *Galatians 3:2-5; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 6:11, 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Peter 1:2*

15 *II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 40:8.*  
16 *16 Psalm 119: 9-11; John 10:35.*  
17 *Proverbs 30:5-6; Hebrews 4:12 Isaiah 40:6-8 and 1 Peter 1:25*  
18 *I Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 5:23, 24; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 2:19-22*  
19 *Matthew 28:18-20; Isaiah 43:8-11; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:1-5*  
20 *I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:27-28; Revelation 19:11-16; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-2:12; Revelation 22:7-12*  
21 *Revelation 21:1 – 22:5; Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 66:22*  
22 *Daniel 4:34; Daniel 6:26 and Psalm 146:10; Luke 1:33; I Timothy 1:17; Revelation 11:15*

### **Our Priorities**

Sterling College is committed to an environment of academic excitement in the Reformed tradition of a thorough exploration of all truth in the light of God's Word. An enthusiastic Christian faith and experience permeate all aspects of the College life. Activities are designed to encourage and develop the skills necessary to understand our world and to create positive change in it. Specifically, we seek to build within our students' creativity, critical thinking, effective communication, and leadership for use in the workplace as well as in the community, church, and home. We seek to cultivate a Christ-centered worldview through which students are able to explore and understand themselves, their faith, their environment, and their heritage. We further strive to foster the values of independent inquiry, a thirst for lifelong learning, emotional maturity, positive self-worth, and an understanding of a maturing Christian faith that provides the foundation and meaning for life.

### **Our Process**

The College works to achieve its priorities through the learning experiences of the liberal arts curriculum, faculty/student interactions, and a residential lifestyle. The liberal arts curriculum is designed to build breadth and depth of understanding through a general education core, specialization in a major, and attention within majors to career preparation. The College affirms the primacy of the faculty/student relationship and the importance of excellence in instruction and advising. Relationships of faculty to students are built around principles of serving, mentoring, modeling, and discipleship. The Campus lifestyle is designed to provide a unifying community experience for social, educational and faith development.

### **Core Values**

In active, vital partnership with church, community, and strategic partners, and ever striving for first-class quality in all that it does, the Sterling College community will be guided in all its work by the following intrinsic values:

***Faith:*** Faithful discernment of and response to God's self-revelation in Christ in Scripture.

***Calling:*** Faithful discovery and pursuit of each person's particular calling in life.

***Learning:*** A love of learning and a dedication to the pursuit of truth.

***Integrity:*** Integrity in scholarship, the arts, athletics, and all other co-curricular activities.

***Service:*** Faithful practice of redemptive servant leadership involving a vision of wholeness in a broken world.

***Community:*** Mutual respect amid diversity as members of the body of Christ.

## **Sterling College Statement on Life, Marriage, Gender Identity and Human Sexuality**

In support and agreement with the Sterling College Statement of Faith, Sterling College believes the following regarding life, marriage, gender, and sexuality:

- that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Sterling College and to provide a biblical role model to the community we serve, it is imperative that all persons employed by the College professionally support this statement. (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; I Thess. 5:22).
- that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; I Cor. 6:9-11; Ps. 32:5; Ps. 51:1-3).
- that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behaviors or attitudes are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the goals of Sterling College.
- that the Bible is clear in its teaching on the sanctity of human life, and we encourage choices that affirm life for all of our employees. (Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:7; Jer. 1:5; Ps. 139:13-16).
- that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes are both made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of this God-given trait.
- that marriage is designed to be the lifelong uniting of one man and one woman in a single, biblical, covenant union as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25).
- that God intends sexual activity to occur only between a man and woman who are married to one another. (I Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4) We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, and bisexual conduct) is understood to be one of the disruptive consequences of the fall. (Matt. 15:18-20; I Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:18-32).
- that the call of Christ on the married and unmarried is one of purity; faithfulness among the married couple (recognized as one man and one woman) and a chaste life for those who are unmarried (I Thess. 4:3-8). For those in our community who are attracted to persons of the opposite sex as well as those who struggle with same-sex attraction, the biblical mandate for sexual purity remains.

Board Reaffirmed 2/2/2024.