



*Providence  
Christian  
Academy*

**Art. I PURPOSE & EDUCATIONAL VALUES**

The purpose of this Association is to promote and provide, in conformity with our Basis and Principles, educational instruction and guidance so that the students may be equipped for the present and the future to take their place in the home, the church, society, and their vocation in a manner that is covenantally faithful and honoring to God.

In the Bible, “truth” and “knowledge” are not abstracted from life but determine and shape our lives. We are to be not only “hearers of the Word,” but also “doers of the Word” (James 1:22). Therefore, the education process is not only to teach the children information and skills, but also to equip them with a Christian world and life view in order to fulfill our responsibility in God’s kingdom. It is to give them opportunities and encouragement to actually use those skills to serve God and other people.

**Art. II PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT**

The philosophical foundation of our school is the historic Christian faith that is revealed in the Bible and summarized in the confessions of the Reformed tradition. Those Reformed Creeds which the school recognizes as accurate and reliable summaries of the Christian faith are the Westminster Confession of Faith with its Larger and Shorter Catechisms, the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dort.

The Christian faith is the foundation of the school’s entire existence. It is the intention of the school to integrate this faith with all aspects of its mission and specifically to teach all subjects from a distinctively Reformed Christian perspective. The school aspires to exalt Christ, the Creator, Redeemer and Ruler of all creation in all aspects of knowledge and learning.

Below are the most important philosophical elements that we believe distinguish our approach to education:

- A. We believe that the Bible clearly instructs parents to “bring children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Therefore, under the delegation of the family, we seek to teach and discipline in a manner consistent with the Bible and a godly home environment.

- B. We believe that God's character is revealed not only in His Word but also in every facet of the creation. Therefore, we teach that all knowledge is interrelated and can instruct us about God himself.
- C. God wants us to love Him with our mind as well as with our hearts, souls, and strength (Matt. 22:37). Therefore, we seek to individually challenge children at all levels and teach them how to learn.
- D. We want to teach children that all they do should be done "heartily, as unto the Lord." Therefore we seek to encourage quality academic work and maintain high standards of conduct. This necessarily includes biblical discipline principles.
- E. Parents can be confident that their student, at every stage of his development in school, will be loved with Christ's love at our school.

### **Art. III BASIS AND PRINCIPLES**

The basis of this Association is the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, the infallible and inerrant Word of God, as interpreted in the system of doctrine set forth in the:

- A. Three Forms of Unity
  1. Belgic Confession
  2. Canons of Dort
  3. Heidelberg Catechism
- B. Westminster Standards
  1. Westminster Confession of Faith
  2. Larger Catechism
  3. Shorter Catechism
- C. The Ecumenical Creeds
  1. Apostles' Creed
  2. Nicene Creed
  3. Athanasian Creed

The biblical Reformed faith expressed in these creeds does not consist of a few peculiar "points," but rather it is an effort to hold the whole counsel of God and apply it in all of life.

### **Art. IV ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

The Association shall be made up of two classes of membership, voting members and associate or non-voting members.

- A. Voting membership shall be made up of persons who:
  1. Subscribe to Articles I, II, and III described above.
  2. Have communicant membership in a church that is in a federation which is a member of North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council.

3. Make an annual contribution to the Association of at least \$150 per family. Tuition payments qualify as a membership contribution.
- B. Associate membership shall be made up of persons who:
1. Subscribe to Articles I, II and III described above.
  2. Have communicant membership in Reformed or Presbyterian churches that are not members of NAPARC.
  3. Make an annual contribution to the Association of at least \$150 per family. Tuition payments qualify as a membership contribution.

## **Art. V MEETINGS**

The Association shall hold at least one stated meeting per year. The Board shall set the exact time and place of the meeting and shall prepare the agenda.

## **Art. VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

- A. Number and term
1. Shall be made up of a minimum of 4 members who will serve 3 year terms.
  2. Changes in size of Board will be determined by the sitting Board members.
- B. Qualifications
1. Subscription to Articles I, II, and III described above.
  2. Communicant membership in a church that is in a federation which is a member of North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council.
  3. Annual contribution to the Association of at least \$150 per family. Tuition payments qualify as a membership contribution.
- C. Meetings
- The Board shall normally hold one stated meeting per month.
- D. Duties
1. The Board shall determine regulations relating in any way to the administrative and educational policies of the school. These policies shall be in harmony with this Constitution and in accordance with the decisions of the Association.
  2. The Board shall select an administrator and teaching staff qualified to carry out the educational program and policies of the school.
  3. The Board shall devise ways and means of obtaining the necessary funds for operating the school, maintain accurate records, and determine how these funds shall be distributed.

4. The Board shall appoint one of its own members to visit each class at least twice per year to assure itself of the faithful carrying out of the school's education program and policies.
5. The Board shall annually appoint, out of its membership, at least one member to each standing committee. Ad hoc committees may be established by the Board when necessary for the performance of its duties.
6. The Board shall determine the curricula and courses of study to be taught.
7. The Board shall specify books and other educational materials, supplies, and equipment.
8. The Board shall establish boundary lines defining the geographical areas to be served by Board members.
9. The Board shall establish policies for inter-school and intra-school functions and relationships.
10. The Board shall convene an annual Association meeting in which it will propose a budget and present a slate of nominees for election. The Board may bring any building programs, Constitutional changes or any other matter that the Board deems necessary for Association consideration.

#### **Art. VII OFFICERS OF THE BOARD**

The following officers shall be elected by the Board: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer

- A. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Association; shall preside over meetings of the Board and of the Members; and shall appoint committee chairmen. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees and shall be notified of all meetings. He may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the Association thereunto authorized by the Board of Directors, any deeds, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof is expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by this Constitution or some other law to be otherwise signed or executed. In general, he shall perform all duties incidental to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.
- B. The Vice-President shall assist the President whenever possible in the discharge of his duties and shall perform other such duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board. In the event of the absence or incapacity of the President, the Vice-President shall take his place.
- C. The Secretary shall take care of the official documents of this Association, conduct all correspondence, and enter into the records of this Association the minutes of all the meetings of the Board and of this Association after they have been approved.
- D. The Treasurer is entrusted with the Association's funds and makes all disbursements. All funds received by him shall be deposited in the name of this Association in a bank approved by the Board and no disbursements shall be made except by check. No payment beyond budget shall be made without the approval of the Board. The Treasurer shall report regarding the finances of this Association at the monthly

meeting of the Board and at the stated meeting of the organization as herein previously defined.

#### **Art. VIII STAFF AND FACULTY**

- A. Shall be appointed by the Board.
- B. Must declare their unconditional agreement with Articles I, II, and III of this Constitution.
- C. Must be scripturally sound in their teaching and lead exemplary lives.
- D. Must be communicant members in good standing in their current church, which embraces the doctrines of the infallibility and inerrancy of the Word of God, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and the system of biblical doctrine set forth in the Three Forms of Unity or Westminster Standards (an individual may state in writing an objection to a specific point within these doctrines which will be reviewed by the Board for acceptance or denial).
- E. Must become a member of a NAPARC church within 6 months of the first day of school for that individual.
- F. Must sign a form of subscription to be formulated by the Board.

#### **Art. IX ADMISSION**

- A. Enrollment in the Association's school shall be granted to the children of parent(s) who:
  - 1. Subscribe annually in writing to Articles I, II, and III described above.
  - 2. Have communicant membership in a church that is in a federation which is a member of North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council.
- B. Children of parents who subscribe annually in writing to Articles I, II, and III described above and have communicant membership in other Reformed or Presbyterian churches may be enrolled after an interview with Board members and approval of the Board. These parents will be associate or non-voting members. They do not qualify for Board positions.

#### **Art. X AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the members of this Association providing that ten days prior notice is sent to each member stating the desired change by the affirmative action of not less than a three fourths vote of the members of this Association present and voting at such regular meeting. **The substance of Articles I, II, and III of this document are not subject to change.**

## **APPENDIX – NAPARC INFORMATION**

### **A. Member Churches**

1. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
2. The Free Reformed Churches of North America
3. The Heritage Reformed Congregations
4. The Korean American Presbyterian Church
5. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church
6. The Presbyterian Church in America
7. The Reformed Church in the United States
8. The Reformed Church of Quebec (ERQ)
9. The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
10. The United Reformed Churches in North America
11. Membership Pending:
  - a. The Canadian Reformed Churches
  - b. The Presbyterian Reformed Church

### **B. Officers for 2007-2008**

1. Moderator: Rev. George W. Knight III
2. Vice-moderator: Rev. Bernard Westerveld
3. Secretary: Rev. Ron Potter
4. Treasurer: Rev. Maynard Koerner

### **C. Basis of the Council**

Confessing Jesus Christ as only Savior and Sovereign Lord over all of life, we affirm the basis of the fellowship of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches to be full commitment to the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God written, without error in all its parts and to its teaching as set forth in the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dordt, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms. That the adopted basis of fellowship be regarded as warrant for the establishment of a formal relationship of the nature of the council, that is, a fellowship that enables the constituent churches to advise, council, and cooperate in various matters with one another and hold out before each other the desirability and need for organic union of churches that are of like faith and practice.

### **D. The Golden Rule Comity Agreement**

Comity has meant different things to different people. We representatives of the home missions agencies and committees or boards of our denominations resist territorial statements on comity in the light of the social and cultural complexity of North American society and the great spiritual need of our many countrymen who are apart from Jesus Christ. Out of a concern to build the church of Jesus Christ rather than our own denominations and to avoid the appearance of competition, we affirm the following courteous code of behavior to guide our church planting ministries in North America: We will be sensitive to the presence of existing churches and mission ministries of other NAPARC churches and will refrain from enlisting members and take great care in receiving members of those existing ministries. We will communicate with the equivalent or appropriate agency (denominational missions committee or board, presbytery missions or church extension committee, or session) before initiating church planting activities in a community where NAPARC churches or missions ministries exist. We will provide information on at least an annual basis describing progress in our ministries and future plans. We will encourage our regional home missions leadership to develop good working relationships.