

## Shorter University Statement of Faith

- A. **The Bible.** We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the inerrant and infallible Word of God. It was given by inspiration of God and is the only certain and authoritative rule of every aspect of the Christian life.
- B. **The Trinity.** We believe there is only one true and living God. The triune God is manifested as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In all things we owe Him alone the highest love, reverence, and obedience. Members of the Trinity have distinct individual attributes, but without division of essence, character, nature, or being.
- C. **God the Father.** We believe there is only one God, who created, preserves, and rules over the universe. The historical account of creation found in Genesis declares that God is the personal and direct Creator of all that exists, including the first humans Adam and Eve, from whom all human beings have come.
- D. **God the Son: Jesus Christ.** We believe Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity and is the eternal Son of God. Conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, Jesus lived a sinless life, perfectly revealing and doing the will of God. His substitutionary atonement on the cross made provision for the redemption of sinful humanity. He was crucified and rose on the third day and ascended to the Father. He alone is sufficient as Savior and rules as Sovereign of the universe. He sits at the right hand of the Father making intercession for believers, and He is the only mediator between God and humanity. In Him "dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9 NKJV) and He is "over all, the eternally blessed God" (Romans 9:5 NKJV).
- E. **Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and is fully divine. He convicts individuals of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and He enables believers to comprehend God's truth as revealed in Scripture. He indwells and empowers believers for godly service, for worship, and for witness.
- F. **Humanity.** We believe God originally created human beings in His own image, and Adam and Eve were created in perfection. Through Satan's temptation, they fell from their original perfection into sin. All humans are sinners, fall short of God's standard of perfection, and are consequently under God's condemnation. The only remedy for sin is personal salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ, wholly apart from human merit and works.
- G. **Salvation.** We believe that salvation involves the redemption of the whole person and is offered as a free gift to all who accept Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior by repentance and faith alone. Salvation is entirely of God's grace and cannot be achieved through any human work. To be effective, however, it must

be appropriated by the God-given free choice of individuals apart from any human merit or effort. Salvation is not possible apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ, and those who die without receiving Jesus as Savior go into everlasting torment and eternal separation from a loving God.

- H. **The Church.** We believe that Jesus Christ is Head of the church, comprised of all true believers in Him. Christians are to associate themselves as members of local churches and to serve Jesus Christ faithfully in carrying out the Great Commission. Each church has the authority and right from Jesus Christ to govern itself and to administer order, to worship, and to carry out its various ministries.
- I. **Evangelism and Missions.** We believe that it is the privilege and duty of all believers to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ personally and by all methods in harmony with Holy Scripture. A Christ-centered education includes the ongoing integration of biblical faith into every academic discipline of the University. All subject matter is to be approached, presented, and evaluated from a biblical worldview.
- J. **Last Things.** In accord with biblical prophecy, we believe that God will bring the world to its appropriate end, that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth, that the dead will be raised, and that Christ will judge all humanity in righteousness. Unbelievers will be consigned to the place of everlasting punishment, while the redeemed in their resurrected and glorified bodies will dwell forever with the Lord in Heaven.
- K. **Life of the Believer.** We believe that Christians should be consistent with Scripture in their character and in their conduct. We believe that the Bible is our supreme authority and that it provides the moral and ethical principles for personal conduct within and outside the academic community.

## **Biblical Principles on the Integration of Faith and Learning**

When questioned as to the greatest commandment, Jesus offered the following declaration:

*"And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." Mark 12:30*

As a scholarly community of excellence, Shorter University seeks to embody this commandment in the following ways:

**A. Academic Excellence/Scholarship (Strength and Mind).** We commit ourselves to explore our disciplines with scholarly excellence and with diligence and to help develop in our students a biblical worldview, thus preparing them for servant leadership in the world through their chosen academic disciplines. The mission of Shorter University includes the integration of biblical faith and learning in its educational experiences which are designed to enrich scholarship, Christian discipleship, and lifelong learning within the disciplines. University faculty and staff will pledge themselves to integrating biblical faith into every aspect of the life of the University in which they serve.

### 1. University Faculty

University faculty will submit an annual plan with their contract that includes the following goals:

- a. An approved plan for developing their scholastic, educational, and instructional skills in order to stay current in their particular academic disciplines
- b. An approved strategy for integrating biblical faith into the academic disciplines

### 2. University Staff

University staff will submit an annual plan with the letter of agreement that details how they will integrate the Christian faith into their specific areas of work.

**B. Spiritual Vigor (Heart and Soul).** Shorter University employees commit themselves to cultivating a campus environment that encourages spiritual, moral, and intellectual growth in concert with a biblical worldview.

1. Shorter University employees will encourage the spiritual development of our students by sharing with them the biblical message of Jesus Christ and by encouraging them to implement biblical truths in their daily lives and decisions.
2. Shorter University employees will strive to practice biblical standards of ethics, morality, and behavior in all endeavors and among their colleagues and with students in all endeavors, contexts, and situations.

## Personal Lifestyle Statement

### A. Christian Commitment and Membership in a Local Church

Shorter University will hire persons who are committed Bible believing Christians, who are dedicated to integrating biblical faith in their classes and who are in agreement with the University Statement of Faith. Moreover, employees are expected to be active members of a local church.

### B. Principles of Personal Conduct

I agree to adhere to and support the following principles (on or off the campus):

1. I will be loyal to the mission of Shorter University as a Christ-centered institution affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention.
2. I will not engage in the use, sale, possession, or production of illegal drugs.
3. I reject as acceptable all sexual activity not in agreement with the Bible, including, but not limited to, premarital sex, adultery, and homosexuality.
4. I will not use alcoholic beverages in the presence of students, and I will abstain from serving, from using, and from advocating the use of alcoholic beverages in public (e.g. in locations that are open to use by the general public, including as some examples restaurants, concert venues, stadiums, and sports facilities) and in settings in which students are present or are likely to be present. I will not attend any University sponsored event in which I have consumed alcohol within the last six hours. Neither will I promote or encourage the use of alcohol.

I have read and agree with the Personal Lifestyle Statement and will adhere to it in its entirety while employed at Shorter University. I understand that failure to adhere to this statement may result in disciplinary action against me, up to and including immediate termination.

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Signature

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Date

## A Philosophy for Christian Education

Shorter University is a Christ-centered liberal arts university dedicated to academic excellence within the context of a biblical worldview. As a Christian university, Shorter is committed to keeping an emphasis upon a biblically sound, integrated, faith-based education that promotes a zeal for academic, spiritual, and professional growth. The educational process of teaching and learning involves the whole person, and Shorter is committed to the principle that all truth comes from God and finds its fullest expression in the person of Jesus Christ. Shorter University deeply cares about the academic and spiritual development of its students and believes that students should be challenged academically and spiritually to impact culture. By providing an educational process intent on transforming lives through Jesus Christ, Shorter University seeks to glorify God through students equipped for lifelong servant leadership.

Our organizational brand and educational philosophy are reflective of and permeated by the timeless truths of Jesus Christ. Shorter University is committed to a broad based liberal arts education, believing it is not only a task, but a calling to seek truth and apply that truth in the marketplace of life. Christ-centered scholarship has its foundation in the biblical command to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind (Mark 12:30) and must be pursued in every field of study.

Our quality education is reflective of our founders' vision for developing young scholars who will impact the global community as valuable servants of the Lord. As a Christ-centered institution, Shorter affirms its affiliation with and commitment to the Georgia Baptist Convention.