

## **Background**

### **The role of service in the life of a Christian?**

*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove that you are my disciples. (John 13:34-35 NLT)*

Love each other. That's a *new* commandment? Weren't human relationships always supposed to be characterized by love? Isn't that why we don't steal or lie or commit adultery? Perhaps this is a new commandment because of what Jesus said right after it. He wanted us to love *as he loved*. Jesus loved by serving. In fact, this same chapter of John, a few verses earlier sees Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. He says in verse 15, *I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you*. Jesus ministry on Earth was characterized by serving. He created (wine from water), he healed, he confronted the culture and attitudes of his time, he nurtured children, he instructed, he fed, he raised the dead and he went so far in his service to die a cruel and painful death.

Through his death, Christ reclaimed a fallen creation. All things, once again, are inscribed with the words "Set Apart as Holy to the Lord"(Zech14:20) . Now he calls us to serve. Serving God and serving others in love is central to the Christian life. It is appropriate then, that the mission statement of Edmonton Christian School says:

*Believing Jesus Christ to be Lord over all, we educate students for joyful and responsible service of God and others.*

## **Policy**

Edmonton Society for Christian Education will provide funding for a .25 service learning coordinator.

### **The Purpose of Service Learning**

1. To assist and encourage students to unwrap their personal gifts and abilities and to use them effectively and generously not only for the benefit of themselves but also to serve God, neighbour and society. (Harro VanBrummelen, CEA Convention 2002)
2. To unfold the basis and implications of a Christian vision of life and to develop

**SECTION 5: HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES****Title: Service Learning Co-ordinator Position Description**

- and apply responsibly the concepts, abilities and creative gifts that enable students to contribute positively to God's Kingdom and society.
3. To establish lifelong habits of righteousness.
  4. To fill unmet needs in the community through direct service which is meaningful and necessary.
  5. To enhance student learning by joining theory with experience and thought with action.
  6. To develop a richer context for student learning.
  7. To give students greater responsibility for their own learning and to reverse disengagement from schooling.
  8. To assist students to see the relevance of the academic subject to the world that they live in.
  9. To enable students to help others, give of themselves, and enter into caring relationships with others, thus developing their sense of belonging in the community of which they are a member.
  10. To give students the opportunity to do important and necessary work, becoming agents of change.
  11. To expose students to societal brokenness and injustices and to empower them to remedy them.
  12. To develop student competence, which goes beyond the academic to include leadership, communication and organizational skills.
  13. To encourage and empower teachers as they see students learning and making a difference.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

1. Under the direction of the Administration Committee the service learning coordinator is to act as a consultant and liaison with administration, teaching staff, and students to ensure that the purposes of service learning are fulfilled.
2. To provide the board with regular reports that outlines the effectiveness of service learning at ECS.
3. To provide an annual service learning budget.
4. To maintain financial records for service learning.