



# The Edmonton Society for Christian Education

## SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that Edmonton Christian Schools must provide an education that is shaped by a faith rooted in Scripture. Scripture, the divinely inspired and authoritative word of God, provides insight for every dimension of life. Christian education, therefore, tells us how to understand ourselves in relationship to God, to others, and to the natural world.

We believe that God, (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) created and continues to maintain the entire universe. Early on, our first parents rebelled against God. Since then all human lives have been twisted, impaired, and marked by the suffering that stems from this broken relationship. The heart of the Bible's message, and the reason we understand the gospel to be such good news, is the revelation that God has not abandoned the creation, but has determined to set things right!

We believe the redemptive intent of God finds its centre in the life and work of Jesus Christ. In the person of Jesus, God executes a just punishment against the sin of humankind, and graciously offers forgiveness to all. Because he suffered and died, Jesus Christ reconciles sinful people to their Creator, and he fulfils God's promise to restore the whole creation. By his resurrection and ascension to his heavenly throne, Jesus Christ is both Saviour and Lord of the universe.

We believe this world and all who live in it belong to God. Although our world remains troubled and flawed, the work and victory of Jesus give us hope. We eagerly wait for the day when Jesus Christ returns and is publicly acknowledged as Lord of all. On that day, the redemptive purposes of God will be complete. God will erase every vestige of sin and suffering. Until that day arrives, the Holy Spirit of God works faith in us and inspires us to live in ways which acknowledge the truth of the good news in Jesus.

We believe that our place in God's world is one of special privilege and responsibility. Made in God's image, we human beings are called to responsible stewardship: loving others and ourselves, and developing and preserving the resources of creation. Since the entire universe is the Kingdom of our Lord; every dimension of life must be understood in relationship to Him.

We believe that formal education finds its place within this broad framework of understanding ourselves in relationship to God, to others and to the universe. We believe that children must be afforded the opportunity of learning about themselves, others, and the universe, all in relation to the God who created, who maintains, and who one day will fulfill the redemptive work begun in Jesus Christ. In order to fulfill this goal, and to fulfill our responsibility as a Christian community, our children must have schools in which this faith perspective is integrated fully into the curriculum and is modeled by teachers who personally share its convictions.

We believe that education involves the acquisition and mastery of knowledge, and the development of a critical, discerning mind, both of which need be rooted in the framework of the Scripture's story. This will enable students to take their places in society as responsible citizens, with both academic and spiritual integrity.

*(This statement is a synopsis of the faith perspective that inspired The Edmonton Society for Christian Education to establish its schools. Commitment to this statement, as indicated by your signature below, is a prerequisite for Society membership.)*



We, the undersigned, have read and agree with this *Summary Statement of Faith* and will support it. We would like to become members of the Edmonton Society for Christian Education and understand that the minimum annual contribution of \$25 (single) or \$50 (family) is waived as long as we have children attending Edmonton Christian Schools.

**Parent 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, Postal Code

**Parent 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

# About the Edmonton Society for Christian Education

The Edmonton Society for Christian Education was incorporated in 1946 by members of the Reformed Christian community as a non-profit charitable organization to further the cause of Christian education. In 1949 the Society established an interdenominational Christian day school in Edmonton.

## The ESCE Story:

1. The Society opened Edmonton Christian Schools in 1949 in rented space in the basement of a downtown Edmonton church with 20 students in grades 3-6. We purchased our first building, Central Campus, in 1951.
2. Growth has been a constant theme of our school:
  - Central Campus, the Society's first owned property, opened in downtown Edmonton in 1951
  - East Campus opened on 36 street in 1955
  - Central campus moved from downtown to our present McQueen location in 1957 and was renamed West campus
  - Senior High Campus opened at our present site in 1967
  - North Campus operated at the Fort Road location from 1969 through 2007
  - North and East campuses were amalgamated into Northeast School in 1994
  - Northeast School moved to our present location on 159 avenue in 2008
  - A West School Building Project was approved in 2017 with a completion goal of September 2020.
3. In 1999 the Society and the Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) signed a partnership agreement for the operation of Edmonton Christian Schools as an alternative program of Edmonton Public Schools (EPS). In accordance with this agreement, EPS provides the resources for the daily operation of Edmonton Christian Schools.
4. As partners with EPS, the Society remains responsible for the following:
  - Funding the Christian program vision, perspective and content that makes Edmonton Christian School a unique alternative program
  - Preserving the integrity of the school's Christian vision and mission. Elected Board members participate in all school staff interviews and new parent/student interviews
  - Staff is hired only with Board approval
  - Owning, maintaining and enhancing all Edmonton Christian School buildings, furniture and equipment
  - Owning and operating the school bus system consisting of 13 buses transporting more than 450 students to and from Edmonton Christian Schools
  - Jointly monitoring the Christian program with Edmonton Public Schools
5. Since partnering with Edmonton Public Schools in 1999, enrolment at Edmonton Christian Schools has grown from 775 to more than 1,440 students. About 20% of students live outside the City of Edmonton.
6. The Society has more than 3,100 members. Edmonton Christian Schools' enrolment comes from more than 850 families, representing about 150 Edmonton area churches.
7. The Society raised \$1.9 million to renovate and expand the High School in 2004 and \$3 million to build the new Northeast School in 2007. The Society invested \$800,000 for major renovations at West School in 2011.
8. In 2014 Edmonton Christian Schools marked its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of offering Christian education and its 15<sup>th</sup> year of partnership with Edmonton Public Schools.
9. The Society approved a \$16 million West School Building Project in 2017. Fundraising is underway and construction is planned to begin in 2019 with a completion date of September, 2020.