

**Article I. NAME**

The name of the Society is: "Shuswap Christian Education Society".

**Article II. PURPOSE**

- A. The purpose of the Society is to establish and maintain Christian schools to serve the North Okanagan and Shuswap areas in accordance with Articles III, IV, and V of this Constitution.
- B. To provide the highest possible level of education for children in accordance with the Holy Bible and to train children in the Christian view of life and the world.
- C. To provide, direct and carry out a curriculum of Christian education, based on Articles III, IV, and V of this Constitution.
- D. To hold as Trustees or otherwise own, buy, sell, convey, mortgage, lease and otherwise deal in lands and properties calculated to help and affect the above-mentioned objective and that which generally may benefit the Society.

**Article III. BASIS**

The basis of the Society is the Word of God, the Bible - Old and New Testaments - which we hold to be in its entirety, as originally given, the only infallible revelation of God. We hold the following truths to be fundamental and self-evident teachings from the Word of God:

- A. God is one, yet three persons, co-equal; the Father - the Son - the Holy Spirit;
- B. He is the Creator of heaven and earth, having created life and substance by a direct creation act, and furthermore, up-holding and directing all things according to His will and by His power;
- C. He reveals Himself, as well as His will for man, through His written Word, the Bible, and especially in these last days, He has spoken unto us through Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh;
- D. Jesus Christ is both truly God and truly man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary;
- E. His death on the cross was a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all who believe in Him as their Saviour;

- F. He arose from the grave, a physical, personal resurrection;
- G. He shall come again, in person, to judge the living and the dead, and to bring about a new heaven and a new earth;
- H. All are dead in sin and need the new birth through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit;
- I. Salvation, from sin and condemnation, is by grace alone, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;
- J. The believer, saved by grace, as a new creature in Christ will, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, manifest a joyful, thankful, living witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ.

This article is unalterable.

#### **Article IV. RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES**

- A. Creation: The universe and all things created by God in the beginning were made good and perfect as we read in Genesis 1:31 "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was good".
- B. Man: Man was created by God in His own image to enjoy fellowship with his Creator. Furthermore, man endowed with special gifts far above any other living creature, received the mandate to have dominion over all things in accordance with God's will to His honour and glory. (Genesis 1:26)
- C. Sin: Sin, which is lack of conformity unto, or transgression of the law of God, brings about man's estrangement from God, his fellow man and the world and blindness to the true meaning and purpose of life. (Ephesians 2:1-6).
- D. Life: The purpose of life is to glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31) and enjoy Him forever. (Ps. 73:25-26).
- E. Jesus Christ: Jesus Christ is God's provision (Genesis 3:15) to remove His curse and wrath so that through Him, man and creation would be redeemed and reconciled to God (John 3:16, Romans 8:21). All those who by a true faith accept Jesus Christ as God's provision are no more under condemnation, but are reconciled with God (Romans 8:1-2). There is no other way of reconciliation with God than through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). Through Jesus Christ, there is a renewal of our educational endeavours because He is the redeemer of our corrupted human life in its entirety.

- F. The Believer: A person is a believer when by true repentance and faith he trusts in Christ alone for his salvation (Acts 16:31); is born again through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5) and being in Christ is a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17).
- G. The Kingdom of God: Through His perfect sacrifice and obedience to God's will, Christ received dominion over all things (Psalm 72:8). It is the proper and urgent mandate of all believers to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...." (Matthew 28:18-19) and thus, as members of the Kingdom of Heaven, to defend and further this recognition of Christ's lordship in all areas of life.

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## **Article V. ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

- A. Educational Freedom: Christian education given in accordance with legitimate standards and provisions for schools should receive full recognition and freedom within the Society.
- B. The Christian School: The purpose of the Christian school is to provide a high level of education to help train children for a life of obedience to their calling in the world as image-bearers of God. This calling is to know God's Word and His Son, to consecrate the whole of human life to God, to love their fellow man, and to be faithful stewards in their God-given life tasks.
- C. Parents: The responsibility for the direction of education rests primarily upon the parents to whom children are entrusted by God. Since the Bible teaches that all of life is subject to God's rule (Philippians 2:9-13, Deuteronomy 11:18-21) and that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7), Christians should continually strive to provide for their children scripturally-based teaching at home, at church and at school.
- D. Teachers: In addition to possessing high academic standards the teacher, as a born-again believer, must reflect by word and example the love of Christ and reverence of God.
- E. Students: Children are a heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3), and should be brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). Students, having a variety of abilities, but being born in sin, are in need of guidance and instruction, so that they may be allowed to develop their bodies, minds and spirits to the glory of God. Their total potential and uniqueness should be taken into account when they are taught in a Christ-centred manner.
- F. Community: The entire Christian school community, ought to support the cause of Christian education by prayer, work and financial assistance.

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