

Occasionally friends of Cincinnati Christian University will ask about our stance on important matters related to our mission and values as a school. We are glad to share with you the following information in a Question & Answer format.

*Q: CCU has experienced a number of positive changes in recent years, with an expanded curriculum and an upgraded campus. But has CCU changed its mission and values?*

A: No. We are, and always will be, a school devoted to Christ and our goal of “building Christian leaders to serve the church and to shape the world.” We are not becoming a liberal arts college. We are still a Bible college and a seminary— aspiring to be even stronger than before. Cincinnati Christian University is not a Bible college minus, but a Bible college plus! We are determined to remain ministry focused and produce as many preachers, vocational church leaders, and career missionaries as we can. At the same time, we want to encourage and equip men and women whose service to Christ will not place them on a church staff but on some other career path.

*Q: In generations past, some seminaries have started out well but then have drifted toward theological liberalism and have become more “secular” in their approach. What assurance can you offer that this will not happen at CCU?*

A: We are maintaining our longstanding commitment to the fully inspired Word of God as the core of our curriculum. We continue to cultivate a close and healthy relationship with the churches we serve, and we continue to depend upon the prayers and generous financial support of churches and individuals who believe in our ministry. CCU maintains our strong and thorough commitment to the inspiration, integrity, inerrancy, and authority of God's Word. This is the commitment not only of our president, but of our entire faculty and Board of Trustees—and this commitment is built into our governing documents.

*Q: Do all of CCU's teachers hold to the complete truthfulness and inerrancy of the Scriptures?*

A: Yes. It is the policy of Cincinnati Christian University that all faculty members, trustees, the president, and all vice-presidents conform to the standards given in Article III of the school's Bylaws:

Cincinnati Christian University, in its endeavor to equip and train men and women for Christian service, shall make the Bible its chief textbook, arrange all of its courses of study and conduct its work in harmony with the spirit and letter of the Word of God. To this end every trustee and faculty member must be a member of the undenominational fellowship of Christian churches and churches of Christ and must believe, without reservation, in the full and final inspiration of the Bible to the extent that it is to him or her the infallible Word of God and, therefore, the all sufficient rule of faith and life; in the deity and supreme authority of Christ; in obedience to the Gospel; in edification of the church; and in the restoration of its unity on the New Testament basis. Believing that such faith and a church with a program in harmony with this faith are essential to the salvation of the world, Cincinnati Christian University shall endeavor so to train and inspire its students as to make of them effective servants of Christ.

In addition, everyone who teaches a course at CCU must agree with and sign the “Statement of Faith for Employment” (attached). This statement affirms, “The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are fully inspired and without error and serve as God's only written Word.”

Day after day, inside and outside the classroom, in one-on-one interaction with our students and in the larger realm of scholarly debate, our professors are standing strong for God's Word in a culture where many are confused about matters of faith.

*"I am so grateful to work at an institution whose faculty members are committed to the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures and to the power and relevance of the local church."*

—Dr. J. Michael Shannon, Academic Dean and Professor of Preaching, Cincinnati Bible Seminary

*Q: How do we know that these important ideas will continue to be upheld at CCU in the future? Are these concepts being built into the university's long-range plans?*

A: Yes. Our Strategic Plan makes these values very clear. Our core values include:

1. **MINISTRY:** We call our students to bear maximum fruit as servants of Christ.
2. **SCRIPTURE:** A CCU education is grounded in a high view of God's inspired Word.
3. **LOVE:** We value people. Christ calls us to love one another, to love those who don't know the Lord—even to love our enemies. CCU seeks to create an atmosphere of genuine compassion and encouragement for our students, employees, alumni, and neighbors.
4. **ETHICS:** Christian values shape our campus culture and our interactions with others.
5. **LOYALTY TO OUR HERITAGE:** We promote the ideals of Biblical authority, Christian unity, and effective evangelism espoused by the Restoration Movement.
6. **QUALITY EDUCATION IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FAITH:** We blend academic excellence with the practical side of ministry.

*"I have a great love for CCU and tremendous respect for those who have the responsibility of training leaders for the kingdom. I'm not a CCU graduate, but I'm a Christian husband, father, grandfather, banker/lawyer, and elder, and I've been chairman of the Board of Trustees for 17 years. The Board is a diverse and godly group who believe in the Restoration Movement. We understand very clearly that we are responsible to God for what we do."*

*"I'm a firm believer in the fact that Scripture is God's message to all people to learn more about Him, and I believe it is time for mature Christians to put 'scholastic energy' into the work of the kingdom. I spent many hours with Professor Lewis Foster over the years, and I know he would be proud of the work CCU is doing to train leaders for the next generation."*

—H. David Hale, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Cincinnati Christian University

*Q: Does CCU still produce vocational servant-leaders for the church who will be devoted to the work of the ministry, serving as preachers and in other church leadership roles?*

A: Yes. CCU has a long and noble track record of recruiting, educating, and sending out effective ministers of the gospel, and it's our goal to greatly increase the number of kingdom workers we will equip in the years ahead. As we often say, it's our vision to "teach thousands who will reach millions" for Christ.

Frankly, it's difficult to obtain and keep up-to-date and accurate information about the vocational choices of all our graduates. And unfortunately, the statistics for those who go into the ministry and stay there long-term are cause for concern. Many who start out with good intentions to serve in the ministry often move into other careers within five to ten years of graduation.

On the positive side, we know that CCU graduates are making an enormous mark in ministry across the United States and around the world. For example:

- Among the Christian Churches, a significant percentage of new churches planted in the United States in recent years have been led by CCU graduates.
- Among the Christian Churches in the United States where a Bible college graduate serves as senior minister, one out of every four mega-churches is led by a graduate of CCU.
- CCU alumni are taking the lead in the Energizing the Smaller Church Network, which is encouraging vision and value for ministers serving in smaller communities.
- Around the world, numerous Bible colleges are served by presidents and faculty members who graduated from CCU.
- Several Christian magazines are produced and edited by alumni of CCU.
- Over the years, numerous CCU alumni have given leadership to the North American Christian Convention and the National Missionary Convention.
- CCU alumni are serving in mission works in dozens of nations around the globe, and our current students, faculty, and staff participate in mission trips to more than a dozen nations each year.
- CCU continues to attract quality international students from other lands, and this is one of the most strategic ways to impact a culture for Christ—to equip Christian leaders who will return to their native land and pass the gospel along to others.
- Because of our urban location, CCU also has a number of students involved in urban ministry in various forms.
- Under the leadership of David Roadcup, our Center for Church Advancement keeps ministry at a high profile on our campus and provides personal encouragement, mentoring, trouble-shooting, and other practical assistance to churches and their leaders.

ALL of our students at CCU are strongly encouraged to “minister” (serve) the Lord and His church. That's why our undergraduate program in our CBC division still requires all of our students to complete Christian service as part of their college work; why we have a full-time Director of Service Learning (Bill Baumgardner) on staff; and why we encourage internships and involvement in local churches for all of our students.

One of the best ways to measure our students' professional goals is by examining their declared majors. We have three divisions at Cincinnati Christian University: Cincinnati Bible College (our traditional undergraduate program), CALL (the College of Adult Learning for non-traditional adult learners), and Cincinnati Bible Seminary (our graduate school). In CBS, all of our approximately 250 graduate students major in some aspect of ministry—some with a focus on special areas like counseling, preaching, or pastoral care. In CALL, about 60% of our 250+ students choose the track called “Leadership and Ministry,” and the rest are either in the track called “Management and Ethics,” which still contains a full Bible major, or in the “Worship Leadership” track. In CBC, all of our students major in Bible and then many of them select a second professional major. A strong majority of these students focus on ministry in some form—including preaching, youth ministry, music/worship leadership, and other forms of ministry-related work. This is rather remarkable, actually, since

many churches no longer give much encouragement or mentoring to young people to urge them to consider full-time ministry as their life's work, and since many churches are not eager to hire young graduates right out of college to immediately serve as their preachers or members of the church staff. A recent study of our CBC students' declared majors indicated that 56% of them intend to go into some form of church-related ministry, 14% are education majors, 23% are in other professional studies programs, and 7% are undecided.

Altogether, this means that university-wide more than 70% of our students (more than 700 people) are engaged in a ministry-focused field of study! And we are committed to equipping ALL of our students with a solid biblical education and a ministry mindset, regardless of how they eventually earn their living.

*Q: But is CCU still encouraging young men to prepare for the pulpit (preaching) ministry?*

A: Yes! Here are some of the things we've done to encourage preaching at CCU:

- Started the Russell School of Ministry to include state-of-the-art classes in preaching and church leadership
- Set a goal of raising \$1 million in preaching scholarships in honor of our alumnus, Bob Russell
- Led successful classes on preaching in all three divisions of CCU
- Hosted a student Preaching Festival on campus
- Began mentoring luncheons for preaching students
- Hosted the annual CCU Preaching Summit on our campus
- Set a goal of raising \$40,000 in honor of Bob Stacy to provide scholarships for preaching and youth ministry students
- Sponsored a Young Men's Preachers Conference for teens and younger boys
- Began a student-led preaching society
- Participated in the National Preaching Summit in Indianapolis
- Consistently modeled preaching through our twice-weekly Chapel services
- Began incorporating an article about local churches and preaching in our CCU514 magazine
- Provided IPOD versions of Chapel messages available on the CCU website
- Published a book of sermons (*Voices from the Hill*) written by more than 40 CCU alumni
- Published *New Testament Christianity for Today* (an updated version of the classic sermons published by Z. T. Sweeney years ago), edited by CCU alumnus Bob Shannon

*"I can't think of a better place that equips men like me for carrying out such a noble task of preaching the Word. CCU teaches the truth of the gospel, the authority of Scripture, and the urgency of evangelism."*

—Patrick Garcia, CCU student majoring in preaching

*Q: What about evangelism on a global scale? What is CCU doing to recruit and equip the next generation of cross-cultural missionaries?*

A: We are taking several exciting steps to strengthen our missions program at CCU. Each year, we host international students from a dozen or more nations around the world. These fine students are preparing to return to their homelands where they will serve as preachers, evangelists, church planters, teachers, and Bible college professors. Because we believe in their potential as kingdom workers, CCU invests significant dollars in international student scholarships, remitting between \$60,000 and \$100,000 a year in tuition to support this program.

Additionally, to honor John Wilson, long-time minister at First Christian Church in Springfield, Ohio, and to perpetuate his love for the work of evangelism and world missions, Cincinnati Christian University is establishing a fund to support the “John A. Wilson Center for Urban and Global Outreach” at CCU. This bold initiative will help us to:

- Provide scholarships to assist CCU students who are preparing for careers directly related to missions and evangelism. We are determined to reduce the likelihood that student loan debt will prevent future missionaries from pursuing God's call to the mission field.
- Provide funding for CCU faculty to participate in mission trips. We want to double the amount of funds available each year to help our faculty teach God's Word in other nations.
- Provide support for CCU's John A. Wilson Center for Urban and Global Outreach (CUGO). CUGO exists to invigorate and equip the entire CCU student body for missions and evangelism. We want to expose our students to the best missions/evangelism thinkers and practitioners in the world today.

For more information, see the John A. Wilson Center for Urban and Global Outreach brochure (*attached*).

*“We have been long-time supporters of CCU, and we remain very committed to her global outreach to spread the gospel of Christ. We have degrees from the college—Ray ('58) and Judy ('56)—and Ray presently serves as a trustee at CCU. Throughout our ministry approximately 70 young people have attended Bible colleges from churches we have served. In recent years many of these students have led ‘second generation’ young people to attend CCU. All three of our children and their spouses graduated from CCU. David ('85) and Donna Linn are missionaries in Venezuela, and David will be president of the National Missionary Convention in 2010. Beth ('85) and Scott ('87) Taube are church planters in Maine. Jennifer ('87) and Brian ('89) Smith are with Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, where Brian is Missions Minister and leads mission trips to various countries. We have ten grandchildren and some plan to attend CCU. Our granddaughter Deshay Linn (who grew up in Venezuela) is a student at CCU. We are thankful for CCU. It's a place we can highly recommend for Christians to receive good preparation for spreading the gospel of Christ worldwide.”*

—Ray and Judy Linn (retired after years of ministry with the Heath Church of Christ in Ohio, they continue to serve the Lord among the churches in central Ohio.)

We hope this information is helpful in answering your questions. If you would like to talk further about any of these matters, just give us a call, and we will be glad to meet with you.

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