

Educational Mission

Asbury Theological Seminary was founded “to prepare and send forth a well-trained, sanctified, Spirit-filled, evangelistic ministry” to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world. The contemporary form of this mission commits the Seminary to maintain a multidenominational, multicultural community which:

- Pursues the union of sound learning and vital piety through excellence in graduate, professional and continuing studies for ordained and lay ministries and provides resources for scholarly leadership in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition;
- Nurtures men and women called of God for parish ministry and other forms of servant leadership in the experience and practice of personal and social holiness as defined by Scripture and Wesleyan theology;
- Encourages its members, in their teachings, scholarship and service, to live out the witness of a Spirit-filled life formed by the authority of Scripture; and
- Prepares women and men for prophetic ministries of redemption and renewal in an increasingly urbanized and secularized world.

Ethos Statement

The Asbury community is a family of believers who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. They seek to live out this commitment in lives of sanctity, both personal and social. As servants of Christ and as ministers to one another, students, faculty, staff and administrators seek to develop relationships in mutual respect. They exercise their individual and collective responsibilities within the policies and structures which make it possible for the whole institution to fulfill its ministry.

Out of these common commitments they seek to witness to authentic Christian discipleship by living with each other and with the world in integrity, purity and love. Through their common life together, in classes, in study, in chapel services, at meals, in small-group sharing, in prayer and other scheduled activities, they encourage one another to find wholeness in Christ and readiness for ministry in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition.

The Asbury community expects its witness to society today will include personal commitment against prevailing moral laxity by not participating in, advocating, supporting or condoning sexual relationships outside of marriage or homosexual practices, since these are contrary to Scripture and Christian tradition, and by refraining from the use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and tobacco. This commitment will also show itself in sincere efforts to minister redemptively on behalf of Christ in every human relationship and societal structure.

Statement of Faith

The following is a statement, in short form, of the Wesleyan-Arminian theological doctrines on which Asbury Theological Seminary was founded in 1923.

WE BELIEVE:

- **God**

In the one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinite in love, perfect in judgments and unchanging in mercy. God exists eternally in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

- **Scripture**

In the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both the Old and New Testaments, the only written Word of God, without error in all it affirms. The Scriptures are the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Holy Spirit preserves God's Word in the church today and by it speaks God's truth to peoples of every age;

- **Humankind**

The human beings were created in the image of God. This image was marred in every part through the disobedience of our first parents, and fellowship with God was broken. God, in His prevenient grace, restores moral sensibility to all humankind and enables all to respond to His love and to accept His saving grace, if they will;

- **Jesus Christ**

That Jesus Christ is God's Son incarnate, born of the Virgin Mary. He died for the sins of all, taking on Himself, on behalf of sinful persons, God's judgment upon sin. In His body he rose from the grave and ascended to the right hand of the Father where He intercedes for us;

- **Holy Spirit**

That the Holy Spirit is God present and active in the world. The Holy Spirit was given to the church in His fullness at

Pentecost. By the Spirit, Christ lives in His church, the gospel is proclaimed and the kingdom of God is manifested in the world;

- **Justification**

That God graciously justifies and regenerates all who trust in Jesus Christ. Believers become children of God and begin to live in holiness through faith in Christ and the sanctifying Spirit;

- **Entire Sanctification**

That God calls all believers to entire sanctification in a moment of full surrender and faith subsequent to their new birth in Christ. Through sanctifying grace the Holy Spirit delivers them from all rebellion toward God, and makes possible wholehearted love for God and for others. This grace does not make believers faultless nor prevent the possibility of their falling into sin. They must live daily by faith in the forgiveness and cleansing provided for them in Jesus Christ;

- **Assurance of Believers**

That all believers are assured that they are children of God by the inward witness of God's Spirit with their spirits, by faith in the gracious promises of God's Word, and by the fruit of the Spirit in their lives;

- **Christians in Society**

That Christians are called to live in daily witness to the grace which comes to us in Jesus Christ, to preach the gospel to every person according to the command of Christ, and to declare God's insistence upon righteousness and justice in all relationships and structures of human society;

- **The Church**

That the Church is the people of God composed of all those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Church is Christ's body; it is visible in the world wherever believers, in obedience of faith, hear the Word, receive the sacraments, and live as disciples;

- **Return of Christ**

In the personal return of Jesus Christ, in the bodily resurrection of all persons, in final judgment, and in eternal reward and punishment;

- **God's Ultimate Victory**

In God's ultimate victory over Satan and all evil and the establishment of His perfect kingdom in a new heaven and a new earth.