

Mount Vernon Nazarene University Belief/Lifestyle Guidelines

MVNU MISSION

Mount Vernon Nazarene University exists to shape lives through educating the whole person and cultivating Christ-likeness for lifelong learning and service.

MISSION CONTEXT

Mount Vernon Nazarene University, established by the Church of the Nazarene, opened its doors in 1968 and serves the denomination's East Central Region. The University offers liberal arts, professional, and graduate education at its main campus in Mount Vernon, Ohio as well as at multiple regional campuses.

MVNU's educational philosophy and purpose are shaped by its Wesleyan-Arminian holiness theological roots, informed by the Bible, focused on Christ-likeness in every aspect of life, and defined by an emphasis on loving God with all of one's heart, mind, soul, and strength, as well as one's neighbor's as one's self. Students are nurtured and empowered through caring relationships with faculty, staff, and administrators; challenged to be a devoted disciple of Christ; drawn toward discovery of wisdom and truth in every discipline of study; prepared for leadership in various professions; equipped to be lifelong learners; and sent into the world to live out their faith by offering their hearts and lives in service to God and others.

The University is characterized by an engaging environment where diversity is celebrated and differences in ethnicity, denomination, gender, economic level, and stage of spiritual development are embraced. A spirit of worship unifies the academic, social, and spiritual life of the student body, and the community is shaped through shared commitments, values, and experiences that provide the context for transformation in Christ, individually and collectively. Excellence in vocational pursuits and in character development are viewed as an expression of faithful stewardship, and a lifestyle of compassion is demonstrated as the most effective witness to others of God's love. As students become graduates, the marks of Mount Vernon Nazarene University continue to identify them as devoted disciples, servant leaders, learning professionals, and loyal alumni.

CHURCH AFFILIATION

Mount Vernon Nazarene University is a coeducational university of arts and sciences and is the official university of the East Central Educational region of the Church of the Nazarene. The Nazarene churches of Ohio, West Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky sponsor and contribute financial support to the university. As an educational institution, the University stands in the Wesleyan evangelical tradition, as summarized in the "**Articles of Faith**" and "**Agreed Statement of Belief**" in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene. **The Articles of Faith** contains nineteen points of faith in The Triune God, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, The Holy Scriptures, Original and Personal Sins, Atonement, Free Agency, Repentance, Justification, Regeneration and Adoption, Entire Sanctification, The Church, Baptism, The Lord's Supper, Divine Healing, Second Coming of Christ, and Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny.

The **Agreed Statement of Belief** reads:

- Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rest upon the fact of their being regenerate, we would require only such avowals of belief as are essential to Christian experience. We therefore, deem belief in the following brief statements to be sufficient. We believe:

- In one God – The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- That the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.
- That man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.
- That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.
- That the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race, and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.
- That believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- That the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.
- That our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

OUR LIFESTYLE GUIDELINES

Our lifestyle guidelines reflect the "Articles of Faith" and "Agreed Statement of Belief" of the Church of the Nazarene and the Mission Statement of Mount Vernon Nazarene University. The premise of our lifestyle guidelines is to exemplify such personal, moral, and religious conduct as shall be above reproach. This lifestyle premise is for everyone working and living on campus: students, faculty, staff, and administration. This lifestyle premise is a rationale for desirable behavior and attitudes. To be in accord with the purposes and spirit of the University and with the doctrines and standards of the Church of the Nazarene, our lifestyle practices exclude: drinking alcoholic beverages, engaging in sexual acts with anyone other than your spouse, viewing pornographic and violent videos/movies, using illegal drugs, participating in gambling, or using tobacco in any form. The University also asks employees to follow dress code guidelines. The University expects all employees to live by this lifestyle premise. We ask for an understanding of the need for lifestyle standards, a good spirit in keeping them, and cooperative efforts in improving them. As MVNU employees, we ask that you consider the larger picture that what we do and how we do it reflects on MVNU and affect other people as well as ourselves. Our desire is to glorify God in all our efforts.

I have read the above statement, which briefly explains the religious beliefs, University mission, and lifestyle guidelines for Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and agree to support these guidelines.

Date

Signature