

LeTourneau University's Statement on Diversity *Affirming a Biblical Vision*

Preamble

LeTourneau University's Statement on Diversity is a piece built upon our expressed [vision, mission, and goals](#) as an institution of higher learning. It presumes and inextricably coheres with every feature of our [Community Covenant](#) and [Statement of Faith](#), which reflect our core beliefs, commitments, and aspirations for life, learning, and living together as an academic, faith community. It is also a particular application of faithfulness to our vocation as [The Christian Polytechnic University](#).

Affirming a Biblical Vision of Diversity

LeTourneau University's commitment to diversity amidst unity is rooted in the Bible's Kingdom vision for all of humanity as image bearers of the Triune God, who exists in unity and community as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The biblical narrative demonstrates that God's love and goodness were revealed in creation. When humanity rebelled God's purposes were not thwarted. His redemptive acts came to culmination in the life and work of Jesus Christ, who will come again to bring full restoration in making all things new. Our Christian community, through all of its dynamic relationships, should thus reflect the good news of the Gospel story as reflected in Scripture. (For a fuller account of the biblical narrative of diversity, please see the [essay](#) written by the LeTourneau University School of Theology and Vocation.)

As an academic community devoted to preparing students for faithful participation in the Kingdom of God and creating a flourishing workplace for faculty and staff, the university's Community Covenant identifies Christian commitments that are grounded in Scripture, historically upheld by the church, and embraced by LeTourneau University. These include admonitions, for example, to "[p]ursue unity and embrace ethnic diversity as part of God's design for humanity and practice racial reconciliation as one of his redemptive purposes in Christ (Isa. 56:6-7; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26; Eph. 2:11-18; Col. 3:11; Rev. 7:9-10)" and "[u]phold the God-given worth of human beings, from conception to natural death, as the unique image-bearers of God (Gen. 1:27; Psalm 8:3-8; 139:13-16)."

In light of the witness of Scripture, LeTourneau University is committed to diversity that: (a) faithfully expresses God's multifaceted design, wisdom, and creativity, and (b) orients toward faithful participation in God's ongoing mission of redemption and reconciliation of all things for the sake of communion and worship. As we seek to live out this commitment, the LeTourneau University community affirms:

- the Bible's clear teaching on the unity of humanity, with its good, divinely blessed, and diverse ethnic and cultural expressions.
- that all people are created in the image of God and, thus, are unique and unrepeatable creations of God; who, as the objects of God's love, are persons of dignity and worth.
- the vocation, gifting, value, and worth of both male and female.
- that the reality of human sinfulness distorts God's original design and purposes for diversity, affecting all individuals, relationships, institutions, cultures, and nations.
- that the remedy for sin can only be realized through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.
- that by the redeeming work of Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, people can be reconciled to God and to each other.
- that this gracious work of Jesus Christ reveals the need to seek repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation for what we have done and left undone when we fail to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
- the call to participate in the goodness of biblical diversity and the development of a faithful community at LeTourneau University that reflects the vision for human flourishing in God's Kingdom set forth in the Bible; and as a sign and agent of God's ongoing Kingdom work that honors the Father, through the work of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- the hope of new creation, in which men and women from every tribe, language, people, and nation will be gathered to enjoy fellowship with God and one another as they faithfully orient their lives around Jesus and the Kingdom of God.