

Community Lifestyle Statement

Indiana Wesleyan University, as a Wesleyan Christian College, is a community joined together to further academic achievement, personal development and spiritual growth. Together the Community seeks to honor Christ by integrating faith, learning, and living while its members' hearts and lives mature in relationships to Jesus Christ and each other.

Working in a community with others is a sacred privilege and a demonstration of God's grace. We, therefore, place great value on the quality of relationships in our Community. This quality is emulated by the following relationship characteristics: being dependent and accountable to one another; serving one another in the Community, nation, world; supporting one another, especially those experiencing personal trials; resolving problems through loving confrontation; and restoring relationships that have been hurt.

Faith in God's Word should lead to behavior displaying His authority in our lives. The following statements exhibit our continuing desire to integrate faith and action in a relevant manner. However, these positions are not set forth as an index of Christianity.

Scripture teaches that certain attributes such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are to be manifested by members of the Christian Community. By contrast, Scripture condemns such attitudes as greed, jealousy, pride, lust, needless anger, an unforgiving spirit, harmful discrimination, and prejudice. Furthermore, certain behaviors are expressly prohibited by Scripture. These include theft, lying, dishonesty, gossip, slander, profanity, vulgarity, adultery, homosexual behavior, premarital sex, drunkenness, gluttony, immodesty, and occult practices.

Scripture teaches that all our actions (work, study, play) should be performed to the glory of God. We endeavor, therefore, to be selective in choices of entertainment and recreation, promoting those which strengthen the body of Christ and avoiding those which would diminish sensitivity to Christian responsibility.

In violation of the scriptural teaching concerning personal dignity and moral purity, individuals are exploited and degraded by immoral and inhumane action of the pornographic industry. Therefore, possession and distribution of such materials is unacceptable behavior.

Since the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit, deserving respect and preservation of its well-being, we therefore disapprove of the use of tobacco in any form and the use of alcoholic beverages. Under no circumstances should controlled substances such as marijuana, hallucinogens, depressants, stimulants, cocaine, and narcotics be used, possessed, sold, or distributed on or away from campus unless prescribed by a physician. Members are expected not to abuse the use of legal substances.

Scripture teaches the stewardship of God-given resources. Therefore, we disapprove of gambling (the exchange of money and goods by betting or wagering in its various forms).