



Redeemer's University

Ede, Osun State, Nigeria

Redeemer's University Community Covenant

(Our Pledge to One Another)

Redeemer's University is a private Christian University established by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) with a vision for producing graduates who combine academic excellence in the practice of their profession with God-fearing attributes. The University strives to develop people with exemplary character who distinguish themselves as leaders in the marketplaces of life. The University believes in the rigorous pursuit of academic excellence in an environment characterised by mutual respect and godliness.

A. The Redeemer's University Community Covenant

The University's vision, mission, core values, curriculum and community life are formed by a firm commitment to the person and work of Jesus Christ as declared in the Bible. This identity and allegiance shapes an educational community in which members pursue truth and excellence with grace and diligence, treat people and ideas with charity and respect, think critically and constructively about complex issues, and enthusiastically respond to the profound needs of the immediate community, global challenges and other alluring opportunities.

The University is an interrelated academic community rooted in the Christian values and tradition; it is made up of administrators, academic and non-academic staff who, along with students choosing to study at Redeemer's University, covenant together to form a community that strives to live according to biblical precepts, believing that this will optimise the University's capacity to fulfil its mission and achieve its aspirations.

The community covenant is a solemn pledge in which members place themselves under obligations on the part of the institution to its members, the members to the institution, and the members to one another. In making this pledge, members enter into a contractual agreement and a relational bond. By doing so, members accept reciprocal benefits and mutual responsibilities, and strive to achieve respectful and purposeful unity that aims for the advancement of all, recognising the diversity of viewpoints, life journeys, stages of maturity, and roles within the Redeemer's University community. It is vital that each person who accepts the invitation to become a member of the Redeemer's University community carefully considers and sincerely embraces this community covenant.

B. Christian Community

The University's acceptance of the Bible as the divinely inspired, authoritative guide for personal and community life is foundational to its affirmation that people flourish and most fully reach their potential when they delight in seeking God's purposes and guidance; when they renounce and resist the things that stand in the way of those purposes being fulfilled. This ongoing God-enabled pursuit of a holy life is an inner transformation that actualises a life of purpose and eternal significance. Such a distinctly Christian way of living finds its fullest expression in Christian love, which was exemplified fully by Jesus Christ, and is characterised by holiness, humility, self-sacrifice, mercy and justice, and mutual submission for the good of oneself and others.

This biblical foundation inspires Redeemer's University to be a distinctive Christian University in which members and others observe and experience truth, compassion, reconciliation, and hope. Redeemer's University envisions itself to be a community where members demonstrate concern for the well-being of others, where rigorous intellectual learning occurs in the context of whole person development, where members give priority to spiritual formation, and where service-oriented citizenship is modelled.

B. Community Life at Redeemer's University

The Redeemer's University Community Covenant involves a commitment on the part of all members to embody attitudes and to practise actions identified in the Bible as virtues, and to avoid those portrayed as destructive. Members of the Redeemer's University community, therefore, commit themselves to:

1. cultivate Christian virtues, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, humility, forgiveness, peacemaking, mercy and justice;
2. live exemplary lives characterised by honesty, civility, truthfulness, generosity and integrity;
3. communicate in ways that build others up, according to their needs, for the benefit of all
4. treat all persons with respect and dignity, and uphold their God-given worth from conception to death;
5. be responsible citizens both locally and globally who respect authorities, submit to the laws of the country, contribute to the welfare of the society and respect the environment;
6. observe modesty, purity and appropriate intimacy in all relationships, reserve sexual expressions of intimacy for marriage, and within marriage take every reasonable step to resolve conflict and avoid divorce;

7. exercise careful judgment in all lifestyle choices, and take responsibility for personal choices and their impact on others;
8. encourage and support other members of the community in their pursuit of these values and ideals, while extending forgiveness, accountability, restoration, and healing to one another.

In keeping with biblical and Redeemer's University ideals, community members voluntarily abstain from the following actions:

- a) communication that is destructive to Redeemer's University community life and inter-personal relationships, including gossip, slander, vulgar/obscene language, and prejudice;
- b) harassment or any form of verbal or physical intimidation, including hazing (behaviour that involves humiliation, harassment or abuse);
- c) lying, cheating, or other forms of dishonesty including plagiarism;
- d) stealing, misusing or destroying property belonging to the University or others;
- e) sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman;
- f) the use of materials that are degrading, dehumanizing, exploitive, hateful, or gratuitously violent, including, but not limited to pornography;
- g) indecent dressing including the unchristian exposure of private parts of the body;
- h) drunkenness, the use or possession of illegal drugs, and the misuse or abuse of substances including prescribed drugs;
- i) the use or possession of alcohol on campus, or at any Redeemer's University sponsored event, and the use of tobacco on campus or at any Redeemer's University sponsored event.

C. Areas for Careful Discernment and Sensitivity

A heightened level of discernment and sensitivity is appropriate within a Christian educational community such as Redeemer's University. In order to foster the kind of campus atmosphere most conducive to research, dissemination of knowledge, learning and community service, this covenant both identifies particular Christian standards and recognises degrees of latitude for individual freedom. True freedom is not the freedom to do as one pleases, but rather empowerment to do what is best. In all respects, the University community expects its members to exercise wise decision-making according to biblical principles. It expects a careful accounting for each individual's capabilities, vulnerabilities, and values, and the consideration of the consequences of those choices to health and character, social relationships, and God's purposes in the world.

Redeemer's University is committed to assisting members who desire to face difficulties or overcome the consequences of poor personal choices by providing reasonable care, resources, and environments for safe and meaningful dialogue. Redeemer's University reserves the right to

question, challenge or discipline any member in response to actions that impact personal or social welfare. The following are some of the specific areas where the community needs to be strong and assert Christian principles:

1. Wise and Sustainable Self-Care

The University is committed to promoting and supporting habits of healthy self-care in all its members, recognising that each individual's actions can have a cumulative impact on the entire community. Redeemer's University encourages its members to pursue and promote sustainable patterns of sleep, eating, exercise, and preventative health; as well as sustainable rhythms of solitude and community, personal spiritual disciplines, University Chapel or local church participation, work, study and recreation, service and rest.

2. Healthy Sexuality

Although there are significant challenges in practicing biblical sexual health within a highly sexualised world, biblical view of sexuality holds that a person's decisions regarding his or her body are physically, spiritually and emotionally inseparable. Such decisions affect a person's ability to live according to God's intention for wholeness in relationship to God, to one's (future) spouse, to others in the community, and to oneself. Further, according to the Bible, sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage between one man and one woman, and within that marriage bond, it is God's intention that it be enjoyed as a means for marital intimacy and procreation. Honouring and upholding these principles, members of the Redeemer's University community strive for purity of thought and relationship, respectful modesty, personal responsibility for actions taken, and avoidance of situations, environments and circumstances where temptation to compromise would be particularly strong.

3. Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

The use of illegal drugs is by definition illicit. The abuse of legal drugs has been shown to be physically and socially destructive, especially in its potential for forming life-destroying addictions. For these reasons, Redeemer's University members voluntarily abstain from the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of legal drugs at all times.

The Bible strongly warns against drunkenness and addiction, which overpowers wise and reasonable behaviour and hinders personal development. The Bible therefore commends leaders who abstained from, or were not addicted to, alcohol. Alcohol in this context means beer, wine, and all forms of distilled liquor, or any beverage, mixture, or preparation containing ethyl alcohol. Alcohol abuse has many long-lasting negative physical, social and academic consequences. Although the Bible has no direct instructions regarding the use of tobacco, many biblical principles regarding stewardship of the body offer guidance. Tobacco is clearly hazardous to the health of both users and bystanders. With these concerns in mind, Redeemer's University members will refrain from the use and possession of alcohol and tobacco. The

University community prohibits the purchase, use, possession, transport, manufacture, distribution, promotion, or sale of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or look-alike (simulated) drugs as well as the unauthorized use or possession of alcohol as a student, staff or others while performing work for the University. The Redeemer's University prohibits any controlled substance by any person or group of persons while on its premises or engaged in academic or business related activities within the University.

The University reserves the right to enforce compliance with this policy and apply appropriate sanctions against any person who violates this policy while on its premises. The University also reserves the right to search or screen any person entering its premises or doing business with the institution.

4. Dressing and General Comportment

The world is pushing for nudity to be a norm. It pushes for a dressing manner that exposes private body parts that should remain private. It pushes to make God's temple an 'advertising billboard'. As a Christian community, the Redeemer's University expects everyone to dress modestly, responsibly, honourably and decently in accordance with biblical principles.

5. Entertainment

When considering the myriad of entertainment options available, including print media, television, film, music, video games, the internet, theatre, concerts, clubs, sports, and recreation, Redeemer's University expects its members to make personal choices according to **biblical principles and priorities**, and with careful consideration for the immediate and long-term impact on one's own well-being, the well-being of others, and the well-being of the University. Entertainment choices should be guided by **the pursuit of activities that are edifying, beneficial and constructive, and by a preference for those things that are "true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy"**.

D. Commitment and Accountability

This covenant applies to all members of the Redeemer's University community, that is, administrators, faculty and staff employed by Redeemer's University and its affiliates, and students enrolled at Redeemer's University or any affiliate programme. Unless specifically stated otherwise, expectations of this covenant apply to both on and off Redeemer's University's campus and extension sites. Sincerely embracing every part of this covenant is a requirement for employment. Employees who sign this covenant also commit themselves to abide by Redeemer's University employment policies. Redeemer's University welcomes all students who qualify for admission, recognising that not all affirm the views that are vital to the University's Christian

identity. Students sign this covenant with the commitment to abide by the expectations contained within the Community Covenant, and by campus policies published in the Academic Calendar and Students' Handbook.

Ensuring that the integrity of the Redeemer's University community is upheld may at times involve taking steps to hold one another accountable to the mutual commitments outlined in this covenant. As a covenant community, all members share this responsibility. The University also provides formal accountability procedures to address actions by community members that represent a disregard for this covenant. These procedures and processes are outlined in Redeemer's University's Students' Handbook and Conditions of Service for the staff of the University as deemed necessary and approved by the Governing Council.

By my agreement below I affirm that:

- 1) I have accepted the invitation to be a member of the Redeemer's University community with all the mutual benefits and responsibilities that are involved;
- 2) I understand that by becoming a member of the Redeemer's University community I have also become an ambassador of this community and the ideals it represents;
- 3) I have carefully read and considered Redeemer's University's Community Covenant and will join in fulfilling its responsibilities while I am a member of the Redeemer's University community.

I accept the membership of Redeemer's University Community

I do not accept membership of Redeemer's University Community

Name:

Signature:

Date: