

DVM Bible Camp Leadership Covenant

Our Pledge to One Another

DVM Bible camp leaders, as followers of Jesus Christ, appreciate in leadership capacities (directors, staff, key that congregational leaders (staff, elders, board, and volunteers) are committed to uphold lifestyles that model faithfulness to our God, demonstrating mutual commitment and accountability to God's word, the highest of integrity, truth, grace, and the love of people.

The covenant below is not intended to be legalistic, rather principles on which we relate to one another as leaders.

1. Christian Community

First, as a 'Christian' community: We accept the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God intended to lead us to faith in Jesus Christ, as God's Son and our Lord and Saviour. We understand that it informs us not just about God but the life our Creator is calling us to live. It is authoritative for faith, and for personal and community life.

We seek and pursue God's purposes in our lives and encourage others toward the same

We understand this is an ongoing process of God enabled pursuit to a holy life and inner transformation that manifests itself in real life choices, characterized by humility, self-sacrifice, mercy, justice and mutual submission for the good of others.

This biblical foundation inspires the truth, compassion, love, reconciliation and hope that are the hallmarks of the church that maintains its focus on concern for the well-being of others, whole person development, deliberate spiritual formation and service-oriented living in the church and in society.

2. Principles for Healthy Biblical Community Life

DVM leaders, therefore, commit to:

Cultivate Christian virtues such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, humility, forgiveness, peacemaking, mercy and justice (Gal. 5:23-25; Luke 14:11; Matt. 5:9)

Live exemplary lives characterized by honesty, civility, truthfulness, generosity and integrity.

Communicate to build others up, according to their needs and biblical truth for the benefit of all.

Treat all persons with respect, dignity and uphold their God-given worth from conception to death.

Be responsible citizens both locally and globally who respect authorities, submit to the laws of this country, and contribute to the welfare of creation and society.

Observe modesty, purity and appropriate intimacy in all relationships, reserving sexual intimacy for marriage and within marriage to take every reasonable step to resolve conflict and avoid divorce.

Exercise responsibility and show careful judgment in all lifestyle choices and their impact on others.

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 ideals, we deliberately abstain from the following:

- Communication that is destructive to DVM community life and interpersonal relationships, including gossip, slander, vulgar/obscene language, and prejudice.
- Harassment of any form of verbal or physical intimidation.
- Lying, cheating or other forms of dishonesty including plagiarism, stealing, misusing or destroying property belonging to others
- Sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman.
- Use of materials which are degrading, dehumanizing, exploitive, hateful, gratuitously violent, including but not limited to pornography
- Drunkenness, or possession and misuse of illegal and/or prescribed drug.

3. Area for Careful Discernment and Sensitivity

Being sensitive to the culture we live in is critical; at the same time living biblically calls us to live counter-culturally. We strive to manage this tension with strength, clarity, and discernment. We reject legalism that mistakenly superimposes cultural practices within the church that have no biblical imperative. Likewise, genuine Christian maturity cannot be measured by simple outward conduct alone it must flow from our inward convictions and motivations. We believe that true freedom is not the freedom to do as one pleases, but rather empowerment to do what is best.

In all respects, leaders at DVM are expected to exercise wise decision-making according to biblical principles, accounting for everyone's capabilities, vulnerabilities, and values, and considering the consequences of those choices to health, character, social relationships, and God's purposes in the world.

DVM leaders are committed to assisting campers, staff, and affiliates amid struggles and life challenges whether incidental or because of poor personal choices by providing reasonable care, resources, and safe environments for growth to maturity.

DVM reserves the right to question, challenge or discipline campers and staff in response to actions that impact personal or social welfare.

Self-Care

How we live is a witness to the self-stewardship that God has entrusted to us regarding our physical bodies, so we encourage and promote, sustainable patterns of sleep, diet, and exercise. As well self-care extends to sustainable rhythms of solitude and community, personal spiritual discipline, church participation, work and study as well as recreation, service and rest.

All this lends to the stewardship of our personal lives – physical, spiritual, mental and social.

Healthy Sexuality

People face significant challenges in practicing biblical sexual health in our highly sexualized culture. Our understanding is that a biblical view of sexuality holds that a person's decisions regarding his or her body are physically, spiritually and emotionally inseparable. Our decisions affect our ability to live out God's intention for wholeness in relationship to God, to one's spouse (or 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 is critical in living as God's community. Likewise, we are encouraged to strive for purity of thought and relationship, modesty, taking personal responsibility for actions, and avoiding contexts where temptation to compromise would be particularly strong.

Entertainment

When considering the myriad of entertainment options available, including print media, television, film, music, video games, the internet, theater, concerts, dancing, clubs, sports, recreation and gambling it is expected that DVM leaders will model integrity with biblical priorities with consideration for both the immediate and long-term impact.

Entertainment choices should be guided by the pursuit of activities that are edifying, beneficial, constructive and with a preference for those things that are "true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy (Phil 4:8). We recognize that people will have various appreciations of what is recreational, beautiful and artistic.

4. Commitment and Accountability

This covenant applies to all leaders, that is, board members, key ministry volunteers and staff with DVM.

Sincerely embracing all aspects of this covenant is a requirement for these roles

Ensuring the integrity of DVM's ministry is upheld may at time involve steps to hold one another accountable to the mutual commitments outlined in this covenant. As leaders in this covenant community we all share this responsibility.

5. Summary of Beliefs

A Christian statement of faith is simply a declaration of what we believe about the core elements of Christianity. A statement of faith focuses attention aspects that are so important to Christianity that if we omit them from our faith or deny them, we lose the essence of our faith. You can add many things from the Bible to this list however to subtract any of these is to seriously alter the core teachings of the Christian faith.

In this we are in agreement with the teachings that have been core tenants of the Christian faith since the early church.

We are cautious to make long belief lists that cannot do justice to the whole Bible and can lead to a partisan spirit. By focusing on the main things there is room for differences on the minor things. A saying that has been attributed to various people catches the spirit of what we are about: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things love."

With this introduction, the core teachings as we understand from the Bible are:

1. God exists and created everything (Gen. 1; John 1:1-4)

2. God revealed himself to humankind through creation, the prophets and apostles and ultimately in His Son, Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-18; Romans 1:19-20; Hebrews 1:2)
3. The Bible as the inspired Word of God is true and authoritative for the church, our faith and Christian living. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
4. Sin entered the world through the influence of Satan. All people sin and are in need of forgiveness from God. (Romans 3:23)
5. God exists in three persons – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
6. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He was born and lived as a human being. He was crucified as a sacrifice for our sin. He was buried and three days later rose from the dead and ascended to heaven where he reigns with God the father. He is Lord and Saviour of those who believe and obey him. He is head of the church and mediator of the new covenant. (Hebrews 4:14-16; 8:6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; John 3:16-17, 35-36; Ephesians 1:22-23)
7. The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, gives new birth, provides us with everything necessary for holy living, for ministry and comforts us in times of need. (John 16:5-15; Romans 8:26-39)
8. A Christian (disciple or follower of Jesus) is a person who acknowledges Jesus Christ as God's Son and commits to follow Jesus and His teachings (Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:16)
9. Amongst the teachings of Jesus are two unique ordinances intended to be practices by all followers of Jesus:
 - a. Believer's baptism by immersion (Acts 2:38) (Believer: a person who has the mental capacity to understand the truth of the Gospel and is able to make a personal choice to follow Jesus. Baptism: the word comes from a Greek word used during New Testament times and means to dip or immerse)
 - b. Regular participation in the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:48; 20:7) (The early church appears to have practiced this each week and perhaps even more frequently. The Lord's Supper, as a memorial about the death and resurrection of Jesus helps keep this key point of the Christian faith at the centre of our worship)
10. The church, simply put, is the people who fellowship together with God, who worship and serve Him, who follow Jesus and invite others into this relationship. (1 Peter 2:4-9; Acts 2:42-47)
11. Jesus will return to earth to receive His people and establish His kingdom in its fullness for eternity. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

I affirm that the invitation to be in leadership with Double V-M Bible Camp is a privilege and responsibility and I am an ambassador of this camp and its beliefs and ideals.

I have read and commit to DVM's Leadership Covenant and join in fulfilling the responsibilities specified and implied as long as I continue in a leadership role.

Name (printed)

Signature

Date

In developing this Leadership Covenant, we found the Trinity Western Universities Community Covenant to be very helpful and have borrowed from it extensively. https://www.twu.ca/sites/default/files/community_covenant_without_signature.pdf