



WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

COVENANT OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND BEHAVIOR

Wesley Theological Seminary, rooted in the Christian tradition, recognizes that theological education involves ethical formation as well as academic formation. It is important that students recognize that the seminary holds certain legitimate expectations that they will act with integrity toward self and community. We expect the Covenant of Professional Ethics and Behaviors to be honored in practice and in intent. Readiness for ministry will be gauged by faithfulness to this covenant.

Institutional Covenant

The seminary covenants to welcome students as valued members of the community and treat them with respect, dignity, fairness and equity. The seminary also covenants to promote a safe and healthy environment, to promote a climate that nourishes professional, spiritual, personal, and emotional development, and to provide support services or referrals for assistance with personal issues and academic advancement.

Covenant of Professional Ethics and Behavior

Recognizing that we are creatures of our Creator called to live in community with God and one another, we commit to live in covenanted relationship:

As a partner in this covenant, I, the student, commit myself to:

The Covenant of Stewardship

I will be a faithful steward of and fully accountable for funds, property, and human resources related to my study and ministry. I will be respectful of the time and energies of faculty, staff, and administration, and other students.

➤ *Use of Property*

I will use seminary property (computers, dormitories, classrooms, etc.) only for its intended purpose. I will do my best to make sure that property is respected and that maintenance needs are reported promptly. I will report situations that threaten the safety and well-being of the community.

➤ *Financial Accountability*

I will act responsibly in incurring indebtedness, considering my potential for employment and my family and personal commitments. I will be responsible in meeting my financial obligations, including prompt payment of tuition and fees.

➤ *Timeliness*

I will submit course work on time and take course attendance requirements seriously. Regular attendance in classes and timeliness in submitting work is a matter of respect and courtesy to faculty members and fellow students. When a deadline cannot be met, I must negotiate in advance with either the professor or the Dean as specified in the Wesley Theological Seminary Catalog and course syllabus.

➤ *Special Needs*

I will take responsibility to negotiate with the seminary about my special needs in accordance with seminary policy. Such conditions might include learning disabilities, family emergencies, physical limitations and severe illness. I will not undertake on my own the remedy of special needs of others in the community, including extended counseling, financial support, or inappropriate academic assistance.

The Covenant of Self-Care

I will manage my personal life in a healthful fashion and seek consultations with appropriately qualified persons for my personal problems or conflicts when necessary. I remain accountable for honoring the duty of spiritual growth, self-improvement, intellectual openness, and physical well-being.

The Covenant of Dignity and Inclusiveness

I affirm that all persons at Wesley Theological Seminary should be treated with respect regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political belief, national origin, physical and mental disabilities, age, or any other human condition.

I will respect each person's integrity, values, conscience, spirituality, and theology and will protect the welfare of all persons, considering the impact of my words and actions on those around me. I will be respectful in criticizing students, faculty, and staff, and I will be truthful and honest in relating to others.

I have read and affirm the Commitment to Diversity and the Disabilities Statement in the Student Handbook (also attached).

The Covenant of Academic Honesty

I recognize that all forms of academic dishonesty are detrimental to my integrity and to the community. I recognize that infractions of this covenant may lead to a review of my status in the community. I recognize that professors have authority to determine whether computers will be used for exams. I will sign an honesty pledge for all in-class examinations.

I have read and affirm the Policy on Dishonesty as listed in the Student Handbook (also attached).

The Covenant of No-Harassment

I will seek collegial relationships with colleagues, faculty and staff. I affirm Wesley Theological Seminary's commitment to creating and maintaining a community in which students, faculty, and staff can work together in an atmosphere free of all forms of harassment and threats (verbal, visual, physical, and sexual).

Each student upon matriculation at Wesley Theological Seminary is requested to subscribe to this covenant adopted by the faculty and the administrative council. This signed document is to be kept with the student's permanent file in the office of the Registrar.

I have read and understood the covenant of Professional Ethics and Behaviors of the Wesley Theological Seminary. I agree to be accountable to it in my preparation for ministry.

Signature _____ Printed Name _____

Date _____

OR

I understand that these are the principles that govern Wesley Seminary, but I am unwilling to sign this Covenant for the following reasons:

Signature _____ Printed Name _____

Date _____