

Constitution

The Society of Christian Instruction

Baldwin, Wisconsin

Preamble

We do hereby associate ourselves together as a body corporate, not for pecuniary profit, but for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a school for Christian elementary education. The supreme standard of this association shall be the Bible, herein confessed to be the infallible and inerrant Word of God, as it is interpreted in the historic Reformed confessions; the Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort, and/or the Westminster Confession and Westminster Catechisms. We do hereby adopt the following Constitution:

Article I

- Name -

The name of the society shall be “The Society of Christian Instruction” of Baldwin, Wisconsin.

Article II

- Purposes, Principles, Philosophy, and Aims -

- A. Purpose: The purpose of this Society is the establishment, maintenance, and promotion of an institution of Christian classical elementary and secondary instruction in the state of Wisconsin, at Baldwin, which will provide for its students a truly Christ-centered education according to the principles and philosophy herein stated, so that its students might occupy their places worthily in society, church, and state. The elementary and secondary institution of instruction here named is the Baldwin Christian School. This Society is organized solely for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
1. Inurement of Income: No part or the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, directors, officers, or other private persons except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.
 2. Legislative or Political Activities: No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Society shall not participate in or intervene in (including publishing or distribution of statements) and political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
 3. Operational Limitations: Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law); or (b) by a society, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

4. Nondiscriminatory Policy: The school admits the students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded to students at the school, and the school does not discriminate on basis of race in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

B. Principles and Philosophy: The above purpose is further defined by the following declaration of principles:

1. The Bible, the inerrant Word of God, is the supreme norm for all Christian faith and life and, therefore, for the education enterprise of this Society.
2. Further, the Bible presents a coherent pattern of teaching centered upon the saving Lordship of Jesus Christ. This pattern, as it has been summarized in such confessional statements as those specified in the Preamble, provides the united basis for the Christian view of education adhered to by this Society.
3. The educational goal of the Baldwin Christian School is to prepare Christian youth for the fulfillment of the calling of God. This vocation, or calling, is first defined by the creation of man in God's image as lord of the world, heir of life, and Son of God. Through sin man became incapable of fulfilling this calling, but God has renewed His calling in the saving power of Jesus Christ.
4. This goal of preparation for God's vocation unifies the Christian education purpose and process. Since all wisdom is from God, the illuminated understanding of His special revelation in Scripture is necessary for the proper understanding of His revelation in nature and history. Further, the understanding of God's revelation confronts the child of God with his calling in Christ; to perceive God's plan in the world and to realize God's will in life is one calling. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
5. In fulfillment of this purpose and to implement these principles, the Baldwin Christian School seeks to furnish an education of more than academic excellence, shaped by values more ultimate than humanistic ideals, for goals higher than individual development of social service. It seeks to train young people dedicated to God who will serve their neighbors, their country, and the world for Christ's sake.
6. The authority and responsibility for educating children resides in, and should be assumed by, Christian parents, united with other members of the Christian community in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Although Scripture requires this specifically of parents, it is proper that they associate with others in this task, enlisting the help of Christians especially equipped with the gift of teaching to aid them and share their authority. Respect for the gifts and calling of Christ to the pupils who are being educated also requires the Baldwin Christian School to follow educational procedures designed to develop to the full potential and initiative of these Christian young people in their own growth toward Christian vocations.

C. General Aims: With these commitments in mind, we seek to work together as a school community, responsibly striving corporately and personally, to accomplish these general aims in every area of life:

1. To see creation as the handiwork of God and to study it with wonder and respect.

2. To acknowledge the fallen nature of ourselves and of the rest of creation and to respond, in view of the renewal that begins with Christ's redemption, by seeking to bring every thought and act into obedience to Him.
3. To re-direct creation to the service of God and man, receiving the many valuable insights into the structure of reality provided by the good hand of God through men of learning in every age, and seeking to interpret and reform such insights according to the Scriptures.
4. To think as Christians about culture and endeavor to make it reflect our commitment to Christ in order to glorify God and promote the true advancement of men.

D. Specific Aims:

1. As an educational institution, Baldwin Christian School strives to meet its general aims by focusing attention on the students to bring about growth in the following specific areas:
 - a. Identity in Christ: The BCS student is challenged to be committed to Christ. This commitment should be an outgrowth of an awareness both of his sin and his significance as a person redeemed by Christ.
 - b. Christian frame of reference: The BCS student should be acquiring the ability to orient his whole life by a perspective based upon Biblical revelation. For realization of this goal, the following are important:
 - (1) Scriptural knowledge: The BCS student should be acquiring a working knowledge of the Bible, rejoicing in its promises and allowing it to direct his thoughts and actions in every area of life.
 - (2) Academic inquiry: The BCS student should be acquiring a broad appreciation of the various aspects of creation, becoming familiar with valid methods of inquiry into each area of study and attaining fluency in the common intellectual heritage of our society.
 - (3) Analytical skills: The BCS student should be acquiring the capacity for incisive, critical, and logical thinking.
 - (4) Communication skills: The BCS student should be acquiring the ability to communicate ideas clearly in both speaking and writing.
 - c. Service that is Christian
 - (1) The BCS student should be assuming his responsibilities within the school community and the community of all believers. This implies that he should demonstrate a positive influence on others while at the same time accepting their loving concern for him.
 - (2) The BCS student should be preparing to assume responsibility in society as a servant of God. This involves his total life calling to fulfill his covenantal responsibilities, including not only his specific vocation, but other activities as well.
2. Further, Baldwin Christian School recognizes a responsibility to contribute to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual development of the parents and friends of its students, of the wider Christian community, and of those engaged in similar efforts in education. Accordingly, the school may engage in various educational activities directed to those outside the student body.

Article III

- Duration -

The Society shall be of perpetual duration.

Article IV

- Membership -

- A. The members of the Society are all persons who are in express agreement with Article II of this Constitution, and who are either parents or guardians of children attending the school, or contribute not less than \$50 annually per person, and have attained the age of 18 years.
- B. All faculty, board members, and members of the Society must agree with Article II herein stated, although parents of children attending need not. Parents must agree, however, to have their children taught from the perspective herein expressed.
- C. Membership includes the privilege of voting at the meetings of this Society, and participation in activities in behalf of the school entered into by the organization. Any member desiring to vote must meet the requirements of Article IV.A. thirty (30) days prior to any Society meeting.

Article V

- Meetings -

- A. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in Baldwin, Wisconsin during the month of September of each year, the exact day, time, and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. Notices of all meetings shall be mailed to each member not less than ten (10) days before the meeting.
- B. Decisions may be made by oral vote. Elections, however, shall be by ballot. A simple majority vote (i.e. any number more than one-half of those Society members present) shall determine the issue in each case. When the Society meets to conduct business, a quorum of 25% of the membership must be present.

Article VI

- Board of Directors -

- A. The Board of Directors, consisting of not less than five Society members, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a three-year term. Board members are not subject to immediate re-election for a three-year term.
- B. The Board of Directors shall hold one stated meeting each month.
- C. Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled at the next stated meeting by the Board of Directors until the next annual Society meeting, at which time the Society shall elect a member to fill any unexpired term.

Article VII

- Duties of the Board of Directors -

For the purpose outlined in Article II, the Board shall have all those general powers enumerated in Wisconsin Statutes, and in addition thereto, may employ teachers and administrators, regulate curriculum, grant diplomas and awards, devise ways and means for obtaining the necessary funds for operating the school, and determine how those funds shall be distributed. Without limiting the foregoing, the Board may do whatsoever is necessary, proper, and lawful in the

establishment, maintenance, and operation of this school in accomplishing the objectives of the Society.

Article VIII

- Officers of the Board and Their Duties -

- A. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the annual meeting of the Society, the Board shall elect the following five officers; President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and General Assistant, each of whom shall serve one year.
- B. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Board and of the Society, and to enforce the provisions of the Constitution. The President is an ex officio member of all committees and shall be notified of all meetings.
- C. The Vice-president shall assist the President whenever possible in the discharge of his duties. In the absence of the President, the Vice-president shall take his place.
- D. The Secretary shall take care of the official documents of the Society, conduct all correspondence, and enter into the record of the Society the minutes of all meetings of the Society and Board after they have been approved.
- E. The Treasurer is entrusted with the organization's funds and makes all disbursements according to the general direction of the Board. All money received by him shall be deposited in the name of the Society in a financial institution approved by the Board. No disbursement shall be made except by check. No payment shall be made without the approval of the Board. The Treasurer shall report regarding the finances of the Society at the regularly called meetings of the Board and at the stated meetings of the Society as herein previously defined.
- F. The General Assistant shall replace any officer, except the President, who is absent at a meeting.

Article IX

- Amendments -

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of the Society provided that two weeks previous notice has been sent to each member stating the desired change.

Article X

- Dissolution -

At any special meeting called to consider the subject, the Society, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Directors, may elect to dissolve the Society by a vote of two-thirds of its members. The members may cast their vote in person or by a written and signed ballot received by the secretary prior to the time of this meeting. Thereafter, the Board of Directors shall liquidate the property of the Society, and after satisfying all of the obligations of the Society, shall distribute the proceeds to some deserving cause, approved by the Society. Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all the assets of the Society exclusively for the purpose of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XI
- By-laws -

The Board of Directors may make by-laws. These by-laws must be consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution, and shall be approved by the Society.

Adopted this 2nd day of May, 1985

President	John Vrieze
Vice-President	H. Marshall Both
Secretary	Keith VanSomeren

Amended March 23rd, 2009