

Africa Reformation Theological Seminary

Distinct Commitments: An abbreviated statement from the ARTS By-Laws

The full statements are available on request.

Section 4. CONVICTIONS.

The purpose of ARTS is defined more precisely by the foundational *convictions* that mold the Seminary's work and life:

- A. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being breathed out by the Spirit of God through human authors, are the very Word of God written, the only infallible, inerrant and sufficient authority for all of faith and life.
- B. The cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith, expressed in the Ecumenical Creeds, namely, the Apostles Creed (no date), the Nicene Creed (325/381AD), the Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD), and the Athanasian Creed (circa 500-600AD), and held by orthodox churches through the ages, express the central truths revealed in Scripture regarding the triune God and his works of creation and redemption, particularly as they confess the centrality of the Person and saving work of the Mediator, Jesus Christ.
- C. The Reformed confessions of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in particular, the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort, are the fullest and most accurate summary of the system of doctrine revealed in Holy Scripture and are the confessional standards for ARTS.
- D. The church is to be governed according to the principles of presbyterian church polity, which is agreeable to and taught by Scripture.

Section 5. PASTORAL AND TRAINING PASSIONS

These are nine passions that the ARTS Faculty seek to pursue personally, embody and inculcate in students.

- A. Submission to Scripture and a biblical worldview.
- B. The gospel of grace.
- C. The significance of Biblical Theology for understanding the unfolding message of redemption.
- D. The centrality and importance of the church.
- E. Gospel-driven and Christ-exalting churches.
- F. The primacy of preaching.
- G. Great Commission commitment: home evangelism and world missions.
- H. Grace-based holiness.
- I. A longing and laboring for reformation, revitalization and revival.

Section 6: DISTINCTIVE COMMITMENTS

- A. Biblical counseling;
- B. Pre-suppositional apologetics.

Section 9: CORE VALUES (eight additional values not already mentioned)

- A. Constant Dependence on God the Holy Spirit and His Power in Kingdom-Focused Prayer.
- B. A Balanced, Caring Community.
- C. Preparing our Students for Ministry in an African Context.
- D. Academic Excellence.
- E. An African and International Faculty.
- F. Diverse Student Body
- G. Church-Based Training.

H. Equip Women and Pastors' Wives for Effective Church Ministry.