

# GCTS Community Life Statement

*Our community life at Gordon-Conwell is bounded and illumined by Scripture. We recognize the unique calling we have as an institution of theological education and seek to live faithfully to our mission of forming women and men to serve the global church. We seek to be a thoughtful, loving, and Christ-centered community of global discipleship, whether in-person or in-digital spaces. As such, the following are our commitments to each other for the sake of our love for Christ, and for our sanctification and witness as we seek to thrive and flourish in this place.*

1. We affirm that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the ultimate guide for our values, attitudes, and behaviors in all relationships. Our statement of faith provides our common commitment to Scripture: <https://www.gordonconwell.edu/about/what-we-believe/>.
2. We will foster the development of spiritual maturity by deepening a personal relationship with Jesus and through participating in corporate worship and prayer and other communal activities.
3. We will keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, and in gentleness, patience, and humility; we will accept one another in love.
4. We will encourage one another to mature in Christ-likeness by empathetically speaking the truth in love in all areas of our common life.
5. We will value our families, attending to their emotional, spiritual, and physical health and well-being, as well as our own. We will affirm the full value of singleness alongside marriage, childless alongside children; and we will resist actions that threaten these values, such as unaddressed addictions, domestic abuse, and divorce.
6. We will respect and encourage each person's uniqueness in Christ, which includes our diversity of denomination, race, culture, personality, experience, gifts, and goals.
7. We will each become involved individually in a local church and ministering to spiritual and social needs within and beyond our own community. We will practice hospitality and regular rhythms of rest and worship.
8. We hold to a biblical standard for human flourishing and thus will leave behind all behaviors and desires Scripture calls sin, such as gossip, falsehood, stealing, drunkenness, racism, violence, an unforgiving spirit, and sexual immorality of all types, such as, by example only, pornography, and any sexual activities outside of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman, including premarital intercourse and adultery.
9. We will seek justice, rooted in an understanding that we, as men and women created in the Imago Dei, will treat each other with respect and love without regard to academic abilities, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, nationality, age, disability status, or any

other God-ordained distinction. Injustice and prejudice have no place at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

10. We believe where conflict or sin occurs in the Gordon-Conwell community, a biblical process, such as stated in Matthew 18:15-20, should be followed to seek correction, forgiveness, restitution, and reconciliation. We will seek truth and peace in love.
11. We will seek to practice a humble attitude of mutual submission according to the mind of Christ, recognizing that at times our personal freedoms must be put aside for the sake of others' conscience and the good of the community. We will do so joyfully.
12. We will seek to encourage the exercise of such spiritual attributes as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Whether we are physically present or in digital spaces, we intend to love our neighbors well.

The Board of Trustees is the final arbiter with respect to determining what is in conformity with the Community Standards. Approved May 2021.