

ETHOS STATEMENT

Scripture Union Scotland, as part of an international family of SU movements, is fully committed to the *Aims, Beliefs and Working Principles of SU International*. Accordingly, this ethos statement should be read in conjunction with that document including the SU Basis of Faith (attached).

SU Scotland works to help all the children and young people of Scotland explore and respond to the significance of Jesus Christ for their lives and to encourage people to encounter God through the Bible and prayer. We hold this as our aim because we believe all human beings regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, ability or disability, age, political or religious persuasion to be of equal worth before God and that all have the right to hear about his love for them as expressed in Jesus Christ. We also seek to encourage everyone to live in daily personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a relationship nurtured by both personal and corporate prayer and Bible engagement.

As an organisation our twin underlying values are dependence on God and deepening relationships. In these values we affirm our prayerful dependence on God and our commitment to change as we open ourselves regularly to Him through the Bible. Dependence on God is expressed through a commitment to corporate prayer and study of the Bible which are integral to the life of SU Scotland.

We believe the message of Jesus Christ should be evident in our relationships as well as in our teaching. Therefore the working environment of SU should be one in which relationships deepen and where care and support, encouragement, the development of gifts and the realising of potential are all fostered. A spirit of forgiveness should also characterize our relationships.

We believe following Jesus Christ demands a distinctive lifestyle which impacts upon attitudes to money, possessions, time, work, leisure, social action and relationships. In relationships we strive to respect one another, to be accountable to one another and to seek unity without compromising individual integrity. The lifestyle we affirm is based on the teaching of the Bible and commends the Christian faith rather than seeking to bring it into disrepute.

We commit ourselves to the nurture, protection and safekeeping of all. In particular, we seek to ensure the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and development of children and young people. Within this context we are committed to the protection of children and young people from all forms of abuse.

We aim to create a partnership amongst staff and between paid staff and volunteers in which there is mutual trust, respect and cooperation.

We define ourselves as working as part of the church but having a distinctive role. We will seek to work collaboratively with all Christian Churches and with other Christian organisations where there are areas of common interest and concern. We express this partnership practically by encouraging SU Scotland staff to be actively engaged in a local church.

Within SU Scotland, there are roles which have key spiritual elements to them. These roles can only be carried out by those who are committed to a living faith in Christ and therefore roles of this nature will be held by those who have such a faith.

We are committed to the pursuit of excellence with integrity in every area of work:

- As a mission organisation we will be relevant, practical and relational
- As a company we will be law-abiding, professional and efficient
- As an employer we will be fair, responsible and considerate

Adopted by the SU Scotland Board November 2007

SCRIPTURE UNION – BASIS OF FAITH

As the Scripture Union family throughout the world, we accept and proclaim the historic truths of the Christian faith including the following:

- 1 God and the human race:** We hold that the Lord our God is one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that He fulfils His sovereign purposes – in creation, revelation, redemption, judgment, and the coming of His Kingdom – by calling out from the world a people, united to himself and to each other in love. We acknowledge that though God made us in His own likeness and image, conferring on us dignity and worth and enabling us to respond to Himself; we are now members of a fallen race; we have sinned and come short of His glory. We believe that the Father has shown us His holy love in giving Jesus Christ, His only Son, for us, while through our sinfulness and guilt, we were subject to His wrath and condemnation; and has shown His grace by putting sinners right with Himself when they place their trust in His Son. We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God; as truly human, born of the virgin Mary; as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as only Mediator and Saviour, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin; as Victor over Satan and all his forces, rising from death with a glorious body, being taken up to be with His Father, one day returning personally in glory and judgment to establish His Kingdom. We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment; who makes the death of Christ effective to sinners, declaring that they must turn to Christ in repentance, and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ; who through the new birth makes us partake in the life of the risen Christ, and who is present within all believers, illuminating their minds to grasp the truth of Scripture, producing in them His fruit, granting to them His gifts, and empowering them for service in the world.
- 2 The Scriptures:** We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are Godbreathed, since their writers spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; hence are fully trustworthy in all that they affirm, and are our highest authority for faith and life.
- 3 The Church and its Mission:** We recognise the Church as the body of Christ, held together and growing up in Him; both as a total fellowship throughout the world, and as the local congregation in which all believers gather. We acknowledge the commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people, making them disciples, and teaching them to obey Him; and we acknowledge the command to love our neighbours, resulting in service to the church and society, in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows, in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression; and in spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world ... until He comes again.