

The Board of Knox College and Salmond College – Special Characterⁱ

1. The spiritual purposes of the colleges

The constitution of the Board provides that the colleges are established as part of the mission of the Presbyterian Church to carry out several “spiritual, charitable or educational purposes” (cl 3.1). The “spiritual” purposes of the colleges include those stated at 3.1.1 and 3.1.2:

- to provide a living and learning environment that develops students into leaders that make a positive difference to the community wherever they are in the world and across all sectors of endeavour, reflecting the ethos and values of the Church;
- to provide suitable accommodation and pastoral care for students to reside under Christian influence and discipline.

2. The ethos and values of the Church

The ethos and values of the Church are reflected in how the Church understands its calling. The Assembly of the Church has stated this as follows (<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/about-us>):

“The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand believes it is called by God to work with others in making Jesus Christ known through –

- Teaching and nurturing people in Christian faith
- Loving service responding to human need
- Proclaiming the gospel
- Seeking to transform society
- Caring for God’s creation”

Special character involves promoting values the Church sees as helpful for all human beings. Those include loving service, societal transformation and caring for creation.

3. Mixed communities

In our colleges, there are people who seek to:

- Be thoughtful, just, caring and responsible people and who look to the colleges to encourage and support them in so doing;
- Follow Jesus and look to the colleges to encourage and support them in their discipleship;
- Be faithful in a faith other than Christianity and who would look to the colleges to support them as they seek to live out their faith.

Special character involves supporting the notion of faith where people of different faiths and of no faith learn to live together harmoniously and respectfully.

4. A community of learning

In relation to being communities of learning, the Church is committed to a view of education that:

- serves the pursuit of truth and knowledge in a manner that is rigorous, holistic, broad, and interdisciplinary;
- links growth in knowledge to an ethic of service, a commitment to social justice and the attainment of wisdom;
- provides opportunities for growth in God through public worship, personal faith formation, and the cultivation of spiritual disciplines in the Christian tradition.

The Outworking of Special Character

Senior management collectively lead in embodying, modelling and fostering relationships that reflect the colleges' special character.

Indicators may include:

- a. What responses to the residents' survey say about safety and wellbeing and in particular what they indicate about the enhancement of wellbeing.
- b. The number of Christian and other faith communities with which the Colleges have constructive working relationships and an indication of the quality of those relationships.
- c. The nature and level of active engagement with worship and faith formation opportunities including with visiting speakers in relation to faith.
- d. Participation in community service.
- e. The quality of and participation in opportunities offered for deeper reflection on being human in today's world.

ⁱ "Special character" is a term used in the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975. It commonly refers to the identity of a school in relation to a religious body. As there is some similarity to the identity of the colleges in relation to the University and the Church, the term has been borrowed here.