

NNU's Statement on Diversity

Seeking to be the Kingdom of God by Pursuing Beloved Community

The Northwest Nazarene University education “instills habits of heart, soul, mind, and strength to enable each student to become God's creative and redemptive agents in the world.” (NNU Mission Statement)

Therefore, we are called to transform the whole person by being committed to creating a place of compassion, community, and belonging by embracing the diversity of race, gender, culture, age, and abilities among our students, faculty, and staff. Our community is enriched when it embraces the richness of diversity in our academics, campus life, and Christian faith.

We commit to renounce any form of racial and ethnic indifference, exclusion, subjugation, or oppression and to eliminate bias and oppression on our campus. By doing so, NNU will continue to strive to be a community that seeks first the Kingdom of God.

Our sponsoring denomination has affirmed a “historic position of compassion for people of all races.” Therefore, NNU makes these affirmations with the Church of the Nazarene (*Manual, Church of the Nazarene, 2017-2021, Paragraph 915*):

- “We believe that God is the Creator of all people and that of one blood are all people created.”
- “We believe that each individual, regardless of race, color, gender, or creed, should have equality before law, including the right to vote, equal access to educational opportunities in all public facilities, and to the equal opportunity, according to one’s ability, to earn a living free from any job or economic discrimination.”
- “We urge our churches everywhere to continue and strengthen programs of education to promote racial understanding and harmony. We also feel that the scriptural admonition of Hebrews 12:14 should guide the actions of our people. We urge that each member of the Church of the Nazarene humbly examine his or her personal attitudes and actions toward others as a first step in achieving the Christian goal of full participation by all in the life of the church and the entire community.”
- “We reemphasize our belief that holiness of heart and life is the basis for right living. We believe that Christian charity between racial groups or gender will come when the hearts of people have been changed by complete submission to Jesus Christ and

that the essence of true Christianity consists in loving God with one's heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one's neighbor as oneself."

- "Therefore, we renounce any form of racial and ethnic indifference, exclusion, subjugation, or oppression as a grave sin against God and our fellow human beings. We lament the legacy of every form of racism throughout the world, and we seek to confront that legacy through repentance, reconciliation, and biblical justice. We seek to repent of every behavior in which we have been overtly or covertly complicit with the sin of racism, both past and present, and in confession and lament, we seek forgiveness and reconciliation."
- "Further, we acknowledge that there is no reconciliation apart from human struggle to stand against and to overcome all personal, institutional, and structural prejudice responsible for racial and ethnic humiliation and oppression. We call upon Nazarenes everywhere to identify and seek to remove acts and structures of prejudice, to facilitate occasions for seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, and to take action toward empowering those who have been marginalized."

In order to live out these theological convictions, NNU has made a commitment in its 2022-25 Strategic Plan to expand "campus diversity to better reflect the image of God across cultures, gender, ages, and abilities."