Vanguard University is a Christian institution situated in the Pentecostal tradition and affiliated with the Assemblies of God. As such, we align ourselves with principles and statements consistent with our identity and affiliation. We affirm the Assemblies of God position that: *the consistent sexual ideal in the Bible is chastity for those outside a monogamous heterosexual marriage and fidelity for those inside such a marriage.*

As we seek to fulfill our institutional mission: “to equip each student for a Spirit-empowered life of Christ-centered leadership and service” we integrate grace and truth in the pursuit of education and discipleship. This integration of grace and truth in every dimension of Vanguard’s community life is neither permissive nor judgmental. It motivates redemptive action in the embrace of persons and process toward transformation and wholeness.

To this end, the policies and practices that guide our community life are rooted in the truthfulness of the biblical narrative, focused on the Lordship of Jesus Christ, dependent on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and committed to the dignity of all persons.

**BIBLICAL TEACHINGS AND IMPLICATIONS**

The community of Vanguard University regards the Scriptures as the authoritative voice by which the Holy Spirit bears witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and guides us in the attainment of wisdom in all matters of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:15-16).

From the Scriptures we learn that God created humanity after the divine image (Genesis 1:27). We believe God created two distinct sexes, male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4-5), and our sexuality is a gift from God reflecting who we are as humans, designed for His purpose to do the good work he has called us to do. We regard sex at birth as the identification of a person’s biological sex and we do not support attempts to disassociate from one’s birth sex for an alternative gender identification. The divine image may find fruitful expression in many forms of community built from mutual respect, love, stewardship and, ultimately, the mission of Jesus in the world through the Holy Spirit. An important expression of this image is the possibility of an intimate union of man and woman as one flesh in the covenant of marriage (Genesis 2:23-24). We thus regard sexual relations as intended by the Creator to be enjoyed between a man and a woman within the bond of marriage (1 Corinthians 6:15-18). Sexual relations outside of marriage or between persons of the same sex are spoken of in Scripture as contrary to the will of the Creator (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:9-11).

Since all have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, creation may deviate from the will of the Creator in many ways (Romans 3:23). As humans who must still deal with the effects of the fall, believers can sometimes deal with frailty, ambiguity, and complexity in the areas of sexual identity and drives. We expect students and employees of Vanguard University to follow Scriptural teachings concerning sexual behavior and identity. We also seek to be the kind of community that lives from the grace of God, seeking together by grace to attain to the wholeness of lives dedicated to the will of God and to following Christ in all things.
STATEMENTS

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VANGUARD’S STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

MAINTAINED BY: Board of Trustees

APPROVED: February 25, 2016

Throughout the student’s journey with us here at Vanguard University he or she covenants with us and agrees to abide by the University’s behavioral standards. We therefore require that he or she honor such principles as described above concerning sexual behavior.

IMAGE OF GOD, SEXUAL PURITY, AND FAITHFULNESS
The fundamental desire for intimate relationship and for the sharing of lives is a dimension of the *imago dei*. From the Scriptures we learn that God created humanity in the two complementary forms of male and female to bear the image together. An important expression of this image is the possibility of an intimate covenant between a man and a woman in which they become one flesh. God designed sexual intimacy to be enjoyed within the marital bond between a man and a woman. In honoring God and the bodies and souls He has given us, we are called to sexual purity through chastity outside of marriage and faithfulness within marriage.

Sexual faithfulness is linked to the broader call on every Christian to live in a manner that recognizes the authority of the biblical narrative. For this reason, romantic and sexual expressions across the range of human experience should reflect heterosexuality as God’s intent and design: male and female are necessary counterparts - differentiated partners - in a sexual relationship.

BEHAVIOR IN COMMUNITY
By choosing to attend Vanguard University, students and employees indicate their understanding, willingness and determination to abide by the community standards of the university and to respect and uphold these standards (e.g. through words and action). We therefore require that s/he honor such principles as described in this Statement concerning sexual behavior and identity. Activism against Vanguard University community standards is a violation of that commitment. When a student engages in behavior incongruent with the community standards, the student enters into the conduct process. Vanguard responds to each student based upon his or her unique experience. For students who violate the student code of conduct by engaging in behavior that conflicts with the community standards, progressive discipline sanctions outlined in the Student Handbook will apply. For administrators, faculty and staff who engage in the behavior is in violation of the university’s Title IX policy, then the Title IX policy will govern the process, sanctions and remedies.

CARE FOR STUDENTS
A vital dimension of student engagement with the Vanguard community is the journey to discover who God created them to be. We acknowledge that each person experiences brokenness and is in a process of growth and development. We pledge to extend compassion and care as we support students in their desire to live consistently with Christian teachings.

In support of this process of personal development we engage together in honest conversations about moral boundaries, personal responsibility and internal challenges. We differentiate between external behaviors and internal temptations. If a student’s struggle in the pursuit of sexual purity leads to behavior that violates community standards, then guidance, care and consequences are conducted in a spirit of reconciliation, grace and healing.