

Foundational Attributes for Teaching Staff

Staff working directly with students at the John Calvin Schools are expected to reflect the following foundational attributes. All attributes must be recognised even though it is understood that the attributes will be at different stages of development.

Foundational Attribute 1: Being committed to Christ

In accordance with the marks of a Christian as per Article 29 Belgic Confession of Faith:

They believe in Jesus Christ, the only Saviour, flee from sin and pursue righteousness, love the true God and their neighbour, without turning to the right or left, and crucify their flesh and its works. Although great weakness remains in them, they fight against it by the Spirit all the days of their life. They appeal constantly to the blood, suffering, death and obedience of Jesus Christ, in whom they have forgiveness of their sins, through faith in him.

Foundational Attribute 2: Being of Christian character

Demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5: 22 and 23:

... love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...

Demonstrating the basic qualifications of leadership as described in 1 Timothy 3: 2 – 7, in relation to the position of elder as paraphrased below:

Blameless ... although a sinner, striving to walk in accordance with the Word of God.

In marriage ... reflecting the example of Christ as the bridegroom of the Church.

Vigilant, sober and of good behaviour ... to be disciplined in mind and living; able to consider matters objectively and fairly.

Hospitable ... having concern for others, being willing to help and support.

Not given to wine ... all bodily appetites, especially in relation to the use of alcohol, under control and submissive to God's will.

Not stubborn or arrogant ... rather a patient, gentle person, fair minded and able to acknowledge a different view point, even if it differs from own viewpoint.

Not lusting after wealth ... rather being content, where earthly wealth is not so highly prized as to hinder in any way the calling to follow Christ.

Not a novice ... a mature Christian, not swayed by different doctrines, but clearly able to serve as a teacher.

Foundational Attribute 3: Holding a Christian world view

Understanding and being able to apply the sovereign will of God in and to all areas of life and learning.

Foundational Attribute 4: Being passionate in relation to reformed education

Understanding the theology of reformed education, recognising how it is applied in reformed schooling and being passionate about reformed education as a positive model to educate covenant children.

Foundational Attribute 5: Exerting Christian influence and leadership

Drawing once again on the foundational qualifications of leadership as described in 1 Timothy 3: 2 – 7, in relation the position of elder as further paraphrased below:

Apt to teach ... capable of dealing with people in a one to one or in a collective situation and applying God's Word to specific situations and circumstances.

Able to rule ... having leadership qualities, whereby the person's daily activities in family, church and society all show evidence of being under the Lordship of Christ and His Word.

Of good report among men ... known by those inside and outside the Church to be godly, honest and trustworthy.

The foundational attributes are worked out in the personal and professional life of the teacher and are reflected particularly in their personal life style, their professional demeanour and their verbal discourse.

It is understood that teachers will never have a sense of having fully achieved these attributes. In reflecting on these attributes, teachers will provide some consideration of the knowledge, experience and commitment they have in relation to the attributes. They may also like to nominate certain specifics within the broad areas as areas of personal and professional focus.