

Columbia Vision 2020

Date: October 10, 2014

Name: Columbia Bible College

Mission: The mission of Columbia Bible College is to equip people for a life of discipleship, ministry and leadership in service to the church and community.

Columbia Bible College (Abbotsford, BC) provides accredited undergraduate education for Christians wanting to grow in discipleship, service, and leadership. Columbia's programs (certificate, diploma, and BA) are designed for personal and spiritual development as well as professional ministry preparation. The College also provides non-formal learning opportunities alongside its role as a resource center for theological information in the region. The ultimate goal is for Columbia's graduates to be positive agents for change in both church and society. In addition to its work with students, Columbia desires to assist evangelical churches in its region in the pursuit of their mission. Theologically, Columbia is rooted in the evangelical Anabaptist family but welcomes students from a variety of Christian traditions. Columbia is owned by British Columbia Mennonite Brethren Churches (BCMB) and Mennonite Church British Columbia (MCBC). Columbia was chartered through an Act of the BC Legislature in 1987 giving it permission to grant theological degrees. It is accredited by the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) and is registered with the British Columbia Private Career Training Institution Association (PCTIA).

Columbia Core Values:

Columbia values a **Christ-centered, biblical foundation** understood from an evangelical Anabaptist perspective

Columbia values **God's holistic mission.**

Columbia values **the Church**, both local and global.

Columbia values an educational method that is **reflective, practical and transformational.**

Columbia values **excellence with integrity.**

Columbia values **community and team.**

Columbia values **affirmation and mutual accountability.**

Columbia values **fiscal responsibility.**

Columbia values its **partnerships** with churches, schools, and agencies.

Vision: What is the preferred future of Columbia?

'Our vision describes what we want to be and what we want to achieve together. It tells our students and all members of our community at Columbia about our focus for tomorrow, it inspires us and helps guide our decisions.'

Vision 2020

"By God's grace, Columbia Bible College will be a thriving, Christ-centered post-secondary institution, embodying and promoting God's kingdom vision of transformation for the church and world as reflected in Scripture, and developing Christ-followers who are maturing spiritually, academically, and ethically – inspired and able to positively impact their careers, churches, and communities."

Short-form: *Christ-centered, Kingdom-focused, World-impacting*

Enhanced vision – includes descriptions of specific outcomes that will fulfill mission.

“The enhanced version moves the vision beyond a simple outcome statement of the vision to a more comprehensive picture of the enabling factors with which to achieve the vision, including key processes and intangible assets such as people and technology. The enhanced vision bridges vision and strategy” (Kaplan, Norton & Barrows).

Columbia seeks to fuse committed discipleship, academic excellence and career preparation in an effort to enable students to excel in their God-given calling for life and service.

1. Building a Thriving Christ-centered post-secondary educational institution (Institutional Health)

Thriving means that our student numbers are stable and appropriate to our campus size (c.500) and our financial picture involves strategic planning and regular balanced budgets. This goal involves the following steps:

- a. *Create a Faculty/Staff/Board culture that encourages continuous improvement, ongoing assessment of quality, and the living out of our core values.*
 - *Attract and motivate quality faculty/staff members to serve with excellence*
 - *Encourage faculty and staff members toward higher levels of expertise in their specific areas of responsibility*
 - *Encourage all faculty and staff to develop action plans for personal growth and learning (includes self-study, research, seminars, further education, guided reading)*
 - *Attract and retain quality Board Members and provide them with a clear Board Operations manual to maximize Board effectiveness*
 - *Continue to build on those core values (e.g., community and team; affirmation and mutual accountability) which are essential to a culture of thriving.*
- b. *Create an Academic/Student Development culture that is characterized by excellence, innovation, and responsiveness to student/church needs.*
 - *Pursue appropriate recognitions of Columbia’s academic/student development programs (e.g., ABHE, ISP designation)*
 - *Pursue academic programming that will attract students with a variety of educational interests/goals (e.g., Praxis, LEAD program, provincially approved AA program)*
 - *Improve financial accessibility for students who may not come to Columbia because of financial issues (improved financial aid, new entrance scholarships)*
 - *Improve accessibility for students who cannot participate in regular on-campus programming (flexible scheduling, online options, delivery of courses in other locations)*
 - *Provide innovative and excellent Continuing Education options designed for specific audiences (Youth workers, Worship leaders, counsellors, mission workers, business leaders).*
- c. *Create and implement an Enrolment Management and Communications plan that is innovative, coordinated and effective.*
- d. *Create a culture of building relationships and telling God’s stories to increase prayer and financial support for Columbia’s mission.*

- e. *Create a legacy foundation/endowment which will provide Columbia with the ability to provide more student financial aid, enhanced programming as well as hire and retain stellar faculty and staff.*
 - *Develop a clear plan and “case for support” for connecting with potential College supporters,*
 - *Develop a financial management system and policies for handling large gifts,*
 - *Strengthen our partnership with Mennonite Foundation and other potential financial management organizations in order to grow our legacy and estate gifts.*
- f. *Create financially stable budgets that allow for the following:*
 - *well-maintained academic, residential, social, technological and athletic facilities that enhance the quality of life for our students and provide an appropriate environment for learning, community, and recreation (priorities for 2020 include assessment of and improvements for the Teaching Centre and to Columbia Hall)*
 - *provide reasonable and fair financial remuneration for faculty and staff which includes regular cost of living allowances and funding for professional development.*

2. Embodying and promoting God’s Kingdom Vision for the Church and World (Theological Orientation)

Being Christ-centered and embodying/promoting God’s Kingdom Vision for the church and world means the following:

- a. *Create a Faculty/Staff/Student culture that inspires passionate commitment to Jesus and his Kingdom vision for the world.*
 - *Build an employee complement that is committed to living out, teaching and modeling God’s Kingdom vision (all staff are committed to one of the Confessions of Faith, to active Church involvement, and to the Responsibilities of Community Membership)*
 - *Foster a campus where staff/students are growing as passionate Christ followers, engaged in the church and committed to a kingdom vision and values (evangelism, justice, love, righteousness) and using all their academic and non-academic gifts for this goal (continue to encourage the centrality of prayer on campus, service opportunities for students/staff, personal faith stories, etc.)*
 - *Highlight and encourage the centrality of spiritual growth and Kingdom vision in academic programming and student development.*
- b. *Encourage and promote Kingdom vision action at Columbia by strengthening partnerships with denominations, churches, and agencies involved in these sorts of pursuits.*
 - *Strengthen existing partnerships through student internships and practicums (especially BCMB, MCBC, C2C, camps, MCC, MB Mission, CYWC, Salvation Army, Apologetics Canada)*
 - *Strengthen the College’s relationship with its sponsoring churches through conferences, special courses and provision of faculty loading for church ministry*
 - *Explore possible partnerships with like-minded denominations*
 - *Strengthen relationships with area Christian High Schools as well as Graduate Schools*
 - *Develop a partnership with an international training institution.*

3. Developing Christ-followers who are maturing spiritually, academically and ethically (Student Trajectory)

In addition to the Christ-centered and Kingdom focused goals noted above, to develop Christ-followers who are maturing and positively impacting their worlds will involve the following:

- a. Create a learning culture that transforms, inspires and empowers our students to excel in all aspects of life and vocation.*
 - *Provide an academic curriculum and student life program that is holistic and transformational in terms of spiritual, academic and ethical objectives*
 - *Ensure that our curriculum has adequate opportunities to develop critical thinking skills and quality oral and written communication skills*
 - *Continue to strengthen the Discipleship stream within the core curriculum of the College as well as improve newer one-year programs (Columbia One, Praxis, LEAD)*
 - *Integrate the findings of the Discipleship task force into all programing (centrality of Jesus, development of Christ-like character, service in and for the world, and connection to the church, the body of Christ)*
 - *Increase opportunities for faith formation through intentional mentoring and engaging relationships both inside and outside the classroom.*
- b. Create a learning culture that prepares maturing students to take the next step necessary on their God given vocational path.*
 - *Provide opportunities for all students to apply their learning to real world situations by means of meaningful service practicum and internship assignments*
 - *Provide second year students opportunity for vocational discernment*
 - *Improve course and program transferability to private and public institutions in every major province (but focus especially on UFV)*
 - *Improve transcript records to include scholarships/awards and other involvements relevant for future vocational interests (co-curricular transcripts)*
 - *Develop a Leadership Minor (including a business component) as an option in all Columbia's Four-year programs.*
- c. Create an effective Alumni Relations Department which is able to not only provide feedback about whether Columbia has been achieving its goal of preparing these students for the next step but also to provide Alumni with information about educational and vocational opportunities relevant to their interests/giftedness.*