Life Together: Celebrating Our Unity, Honoring Our Differences
Calvin Theological Seminary
Monday, August 28, 2017

Welcome to the Calvin Seminary community! As a community of learning composed of people from around the world who are being formed not only as disciples of Jesus Christ, but also as “church leaders who cultivate communities of disciples of Jesus Christ,” we celebrate our unity in Christ and honor our differences as members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12). To that end, we “nurture a community of hospitality” in which faculty, staff, and students “cultivate meaningful relationships [that] foster personal and spiritual growth throughout our learning community” (CTS “Vision Frame”).

Such a community of formation and learning must be a “safe, healthy learning environment for all,” marked by “integrity … hospitality and compassion” and not by “behavior that undermines community.” Although we sometimes fall short of these goals, we commit to “hold one another accountable as we live and learn together, always seeking restoration and reconciliation in matters of offense” (CTS “Student Conduct Code” and “Safe and Healthy Community Policy”).

In order to help one another and the whole community move toward health and wholeness, we commit ourselves to the following practices:

1. We delight in the national and cultural variety among members of the Calvin Seminary community.
2. As a reflection of our union in Christ, we befriend one another across national, cultural, gender, and ideological lines.
3. We respect one another, even when we have differences of opinion, theological commitment, worship style, or cultural background.
4. We listen carefully to one another, especially when we might disagree.
5. After careful listening, we speak the truth in love.
6. When we speak, we give the best interpretation of what another person says.
7. When we hurt one another, we readily apologize.
8. When community has been broken, we forgive one another—and ourselves—and commit to the work of restoration and reconciliation.

Appendix: Preamble to the “Student Conduct Code” and Introduction to the “Safe and Healthy Community” policy:

As a community of disciples who belong –
body and soul, in life and in death –
to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ,
Calvin Seminary will provide a safe, healthy learning environment
for all of our students and their families.
Calvin Seminary will support students in their formation for ministry.
Students will live as mature believers with integrity in accordance with biblical standards.
We will show hospitality and compassion to one another
while avoiding behavior that undermines community
or that violates civil law or professional ethics.
We will hold one another accountable as we live and learn together,
always seeking restoration and reconciliation in matters of offense.

8/23/2017 (This is a working document. Comments and suggestions are welcome.)