

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Theology requires personal passion, clear communication and profiled positions. But theology also lives from its mission, its vision. The Mission of the Theology can be derived from e.g. Matthew 28 in this way:

“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

That is why we value and promote academic work.

With their signature, applicants confirm that they have read the CIU's basic beliefs and thus understand and respect the values and principles that underlie the CIU learning community and the spiritual tradition of CIU. They take note of and approve of the "Unity in Diversity" statement.

1. Unity in Diversity

The AWM in Korntal is an evangelical school formed of Christians from a variety of church backgrounds. The community of students, staff, and professors represent a wide variety of denominational backgrounds and church traditions. This wealth of experiences and traditions offers the opportunity to discover the rich diversity of God's people and to work with people from denominational backgrounds other than one's own. Learning to accept and respect Christians from traditions outside our own background is essential ministry preparation for multifaceted settings.

Every opportunity brings potential challenges and we therefore ask you to indicate your agreement to the following guidelines by signing this statement as part of the application process:

1. Respect, mutual acceptance and love in the Lord characterize the way we interact with each other. This applies especially to assignments and discussions in class and outside of the classroom setting, especially when dealing with controversial topics.
2. We are a learning community and not a local church. Therefore, opinions, signs of expressions and deeds/actions, which are viewed and weighed differently according to different traditions must be handled in a way which will not disrupt our community. This applies – among other topics – to views on baptism, eschatology, spiritual gifts, the role of women, etc.
3. Personal beliefs are accepted and may certainly be articulated. We expect everyone to articulate opinions with respect and acceptance of different views (see above). Students are expected to demonstrate a general willingness to reflect on their own theological convictions in the context of their studies and to practice respectful interaction with people who may not share the same convictions. An instrumentalization of issues that divide Christians is not acceptable.
4. Chapel and prayer times are meant for joint worship, and the style of worship corresponds to our institutional culture.
5. In case of complaints, please refer to our grievance policy.

2. CIU's Doctrinal Statement

Teaching at Columbia International University (and its European campus, CIU Korntal at the AWM) is based on the great fundamentals of the Christian faith, all of which center in the person of Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen, and glorified Savior and Lord. The following, together with other Christian principles of doctrine and practice, including the affirmation of the full trustworthiness of Scripture, which in its original writing was verbally inspired and without error, shall be the basis of the faith and doctrine of the CIU:

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content, and without any errors in its teachings.
2. All men in their natural state are lost, alienated from God, spiritually dead: "All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
3. Salvation is only by grace, a free gift of God, through faith in the Lord Jesus, who died for our sins according to the Scriptures (I Cor. 15:3). Those who thus receive Christ by faith have their sins forgiven (Eph. 1:7), their hearts cleansed (Acts 15:9), are born of the Spirit, become children of God (Jn. 1:12, 13), and are made new creatures in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).
4. God is One God, who reveals Himself in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ, as the Scriptures affirm, is the Son of God and Son of man. He was born of a virgin and is Himself very God. The Scriptures also declare the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit.
5. Our Lord Jesus rose from the dead in the same body that was laid to rest in the tomb (Jn. 20:25-27). The bodies of all believers who die will be raised from the dead, and they will receive an incorruptible body like unto His glorious body (I Cor. 15:53; Phil. 3:21). All other men shall be raised unto "the resurrection of judgment" (Jn. 5:28, 29).
6. Christians, born of the Spirit, are to live the new life in the present power of the Spirit. "If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk" (Gal. 5:16-25; Col. 2:6). The Christian's responsibility and his normal attitude of life is to yield himself to God (Rom. 6:13), trusting God to keep him.
7. Christian "living" includes Christian service, the winning of souls around us, and the preaching of the Gospel in the uttermost parts of the earth. In carrying on this work there is needed the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit which is granted to every believer as he yields and trusts (Acts 1:8; I Cor. 12:7; Eph. 3:20; Acts 5:32). And in all of this service, prayer is to have the central place (Jn. 14:12-14; Eph. 6:18, 19).
8. Jesus Christ will come again to earth the second time (Heb. 9:28), personally (Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16), bodily (Acts 1:11; Col. 2:9), and visibly (Matt. 26:64; Rev. 1:7). His coming will precede the age of universal peace and righteousness foretold in the Scriptures (Matt. 24:29, 30, 42; II Thess. 2:7, 8; Rev. 20:1-6). (Candidates for graduation need not affirm the premillennial position.).