

Governance Statement

Governance Manual

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Author:	Paul Ashton
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The Board of Directors are committed to the maintenance of the highest possible standards of business and operations at all levels across the Riverside Christian Centre (RCC).

Underlying Principles

The Board affirms the seven principles identified by Lord Nolan during work undertaken by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, as follows;

As a Christian organisation, RCC seeks to reflect its Christian ethos, values and culture in all it does and so verses have been included under each principle and these reflect the standards that are expected by God's people and it acts as a reminder that Good Governance is derived from Biblical standards.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

'just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many'. Matthew 20 v 28

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

'In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned'. Titus 2 v 7 & 8a.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

'Now let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery'. 2 Chronicles 19 v 7.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

'Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good'. Titus 3 v 1.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful.
Proverbs 12 v 22

Honesty and Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

'..if it is leadership then let him govern diligently'.. Romans 12 v 8

Good Governance is not an additional 'bolt on' process which is separate to other systems and processes available in the Charity. It is a process that is integrated with everything that takes place in the work and the life of RCC.

The Board are committed to regularly reviewing the Governance systems and procedures in order to ensure that effective practices are in place for the benefit of all.

Team working values have been developed (Values in Action) and these are intended to reflect good working practices at every level of the Organisation (see Appendix below).

APPENDIX 1

VALUES IN ACTION

We seek to respond obediently and creatively to God's direction, trusting Him to act as we aspire to Christ-likeness through holding to the following values:

Honesty & Integrity (Building trust)

- Openness
 - Accountability
 - Trust
 - Integrity of word and action
 - Transparency

Phil 4:8-9

Brothers and sisters, "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice."

Excellence (Increasing productivity and effectiveness)

- Seeking to do the best we can with God's help
 - Committed to personal growth
 - Openness to change and learning
 - Enhancing the quality of our services
 - Clarity of purpose

Phil 3:14

"I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

A Servant Heart (Putting others first)

- Humility
 - Obedience
 - Seeking to meet others' needs

- Acceptance of one's situation and role
- Openness to feedback

Phil 2:6-7

"[Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant."

Encouragement

(Bringing out the best in each other)

- Always building up
 - Celebrating and praising achievement
 - Showing tolerance and forgiveness
 - Putting people before plans
 - Recognising and stimulating diversity of gifts and abilities
 - Encouraging growth through success and failure

Rom 15:5

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus."

Teamwork

(Being better together)

- Respecting, honouring and valuing each individual
 - Being loyal to one another and to RCC
 - Being available and supportive to each other
 - Listening
 - Sharing knowledge
 - Inclusive decision making

Rom 12:4-5

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."