

## MISSIO DEI SCHOOL – МИССИОНЕРСКАЯ ШКОЛА

# COMMUNITY RULES OF MISSIO DEI SCHOOL

### Why Rules?

Rules are important and in Missio Dei School we want all participants to follow the rules that we put in place. You may wonder: “Why rules?” Some people take offense at the thought that a church, or any entity connected to a church, dares to have rules. Sometimes we think that living by grace excludes any notion of rules. We need rules for living in community.

Rules are important. Rules provide safety, they can help to achieve success, and they promote fairness. Families have rules. Schools have rules – imagine what would happen if everyone would talk at the same time in the classroom? Do you think you can learn anything in that setting? There are rules on the roads to control traffic. What would happen if everyone drove without rules? This would bring much chaos and danger to people’s lives.

We believe that it is important for any missionary to have a set of rules that will help to carry the gospel without the obstacles of your own ideas or behaviors. Look at the example of Apostle Paul, who wrote:

“19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.” (1Corinthians 9:19-23)

Let me interpret Paul’s message more bluntly: **it’s not about you!** If you want to talk to others about Jesus Christ, you put the task of telling the Good News to other people above your own interests and desires.

You see, people judge people. Everybody does. This includes liberals and conservatives, rich and poor, Christians and atheists – all judge. Everyone is constantly evaluating if they can trust a person or not. You may have the best idea in the world, the best news, and the greatest message but if people do not trust you, they will refuse to hear what you offer. This means that the truthfulness and impact of the Gospel message may be limited by your wrong attitude, behavior, and outlook. You may have only one opportunity to witness to an unbeliever about God’s grace. This is especially true if you go to a different culture with the Gospel message. Some things that are normal and accepted in one culture may be quite offensive and disrespectful in another culture.

You need to follow specific rules on the mission field and we will start practicing them when you arrive for your training at Missio Dei School’s campus. Failure to follow rules on the mission field may lead to your inability to reach people with the Gospel message and sometimes even can bring danger to your life.

### Basic and General Rules

1. All students are expected to follow our school’s rules, policies, and expectations.

2. Each student needs to exhibit respect and patience in regards to others even if their culture or views are different.
3. Students must attend all classes without absences and delays. Everyone needs to be in time for classes and other planned activities.
4. All students must attend all weekly and daily planned activities.

### **Attitudes and Behaviors**

1. All MDS students must seek to be sincere God's people, "so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone." (Titus 3:8, *NLT*)
2. All MDS students must promote the spirit of love and encourage each other for good deeds: "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24, *NLT*)
3. All students should never engage in cheating or plagiarism in class or outside of class. This rule applies to writing papers, exams, tests or other assignments.
4. All students must NEVER:
  - Use obscene (curse) and vulgar words or gestures
  - Flirt or have sexual relationships
  - Smoke, use or sell tobacco, marijuana, and electronic cigarettes (vaping)
  - Use or sell drugs, narcotics (recreational or prescriptions)
  - Drink or sell alcohol
  - Steal personal, school's or church's property and things
  - Fight and use force in any circumstances
  - Watch pornography
  - Practice magic and witchcraft

Failure to comply with these rules will lead to serious disciplinary actions and even expulsion with a permanent written record on file.

5. All students should not listen to non-Christian music and watch movies promoting violence, obscene and dirty language, and lewd scenes.
6. At all time, students should avoid placing inappropriate pictures of themselves or other people on Internet during the school time or mission assignment.

### **Purity and Chastity in Relationships**

1. No dating or beginning to date during the school time or at the mission field is allowed. Dating and other relationship drama only distracts you from serving God and studies to focus on your own selfish desires. You come here for a different purpose. If God leads you to connect your life with a fellow missionary, you can do that after the graduation from the program.
2. God calls us to have pure and holy lives with our spirit, soul, and body to be holy and blameless (1Thessalonians 5:23). Purity of life requires you to stay away from any expression of affection that may lead to lust and sinful desires. Students are **NOT ALLOWED**:
  - To hold hands
  - To hug
  - To give massages
  - To kiss

- To have sex
- To sit on each other's laps.

### **School and Classroom Rules**

1. Mobile phones can be used only during breaks, phone use during classes and worship services is not allowed. This rule applies to the smartwatches as well.
2. Snacking and any food is allowed only during breaks.
3. Students must contribute to the overall positive atmosphere, cleanliness, and good attitude in the classroom by:
  - Keeping their desks and surroundings clean
  - All students are responsible to maintain order and cleanliness of all property, classrooms, dining hall, kitchen, and restrooms at all times
  - Students on duty will be responsible for maintaining the order in all areas
  - Submitting all homework and assignments on time
4. Students must respect the instructor and contribute to creating a good learning environment. This means that students should not:
  - Sleep during class time
  - Talk without permission
  - Walk around in the classroom and leave the classroom
  - Engage in other activities and use electronic devices
  - Change their seats, without permission
5. All students will be required to be on duty. Everyday two students will be responsible to oversee the cleanliness of all facilities used by MDS on rotational basis.
6. Two hours a week all students will participate in the physical service helping to maintain order and cleanliness inside and outside of the church's property. This may include cleaning and dusting inside, decorating, removing snow, weeding, and other help.

### **Dress Code**

1. All students and all workers must abide by a specific dress code. You need to remember a simple truth that everyone wants to express himself or herself through what they wear. This is true in most cultures and it is especially true in contemporary fashion design. Most of the fashion designers want to express rebellion, worldliness, lust, and pride through their designs. As genuine followers of Christ, we strive to express modesty, God's beauty, chastity, and purity.
2. Overall, all students, ladies and gentlemen should wear casual attire, which is generally appropriate in a professional office setting or in church services.

#### ***Ladies:***

1. All shirts and blouses must have sleeves. Tank tops, off-shoulder tops, tube-tops, narrow straps are not allowed in school or in church.
2. Tops must have a neckline high enough not to show cleavage.
3. Skirts and dresses must be knee high or below the knee. No high slits.
4. No leggings, jeggings, latex or leather pants.

5. No distressed / destroyed jeans (or pants) with rips, slits or tears.
6. No shorts, flip-flops or slippers. Sandals must have a back strap.
7. No earrings and other jewelry except for wedding or engagement bands / rings.
8. No face or body piercings and unnatural hair color.
9. Hair must be kept clean and neat.

***Dress Code for Church Services:***

1. Skirt or dress below the knee, and no high slits. No pants.
2. No sleeveless shirts or blouses, tank-tops, off-shoulder tops or tube-tops.
3. No earrings and other jewelry except for wedding or engagement bands / rings.

***Gentlemen:***

1. General dress code fit for a professional office setting or church service.
2. Preferably khaki or dress pants. May wear jeans but no rips or tears. No athletic pants.
3. No shorts, flip-flops or slippers.
4. No hats or headwear in doors.
5. No sleeveless shirts.
6. No earrings and other jewelry except for wedding bands / rings.
7. Hair must be kept clean, neat, and well groomed. Gentlemen's hair must be no longer than shoulder length. No man buns, braids or ponytails.

***Dress Code for the Church Services:***

1. Dress pants, no jeans.
2. Collared shirt or a polo shirt
3. No earrings and other jewelry except for wedding bands / rings.

**Worship and Spiritual Formation**

1. All students are required to attend worship services in the church.
2. All students must participate in choir rehearsals and performances, unless student has an excused explanation why they are not able to participate in choir.
3. Every student must take good care of his or her spiritual condition before God. In order to promote spiritual growth every student must:
  - Read the Bible daily – at least 3 chapters a day or more
  - Attend morning prayer in school and participate in a prayer group
  - Participate regularly in the worship services: school's chapel service and church service
  - Participate regularly in weekly outreaches.

**Residency Rules**

1. Every student is responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of the room where they stay. Be respectful to your host family.
2. All students must be home by 11 PM and not leave earlier than 5 AM.
3. Every student must spend the night only at assigned residency.
4. Gatherings or parties are allowed only with the approval of administration and must not interfere with the hosting family.

## **Finances**

1. Students are responsible to pay back all the damages that are done to school's (or church's) property, school inventory, residency or vehicles provided.
2. School does not take financial responsibility for medical costs connected to medical condition, trauma, car accident or illness.
3. If a student is expelled from the program or withdraws from the school for any reason, student will not receive a tuition refund.

## **Mission Field**

1. Be active in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through active participation in mission projects.
2. Be light and salt to the world – remember that often your attitudes, behaviors, and actions speak louder than words and intentions.
3. Do not endanger your own life or life of other members of the group.
4. Regularly (weekly) connect to school's mission coordinator for accountability and report.
5. Cooperate with your team members and the local leaders and believers.
6. Be polite and courteous to everyone.
7. Do not put local believers in danger or negative view because of your own cultural insensitivity.

## **Disciplinary Actions**

1. When the principles of Christian life and purity are violated through deceit, slander, fornication, theft, alcohol, drug, and tobacco use the administration has the right to expel the student immediately without warning and tuition refund.
1. If a student has a minor violation, the school may deny him or her to be part of a mission assignment/s.
2. Students will face disciplinary actions for violation of any rule.
3. Cheating on exams or assignments will be punished by immediate written warning.
4. When student receives a written warning, the student's pastor is notified. All notices and warnings, are filed permanently in student's record.
5. After receiving three written records, the administration has the right to expel the student without a tuition refund. Student's home church leaders will be notified about the situation as well.

## **Graduation Requirements**

1. Tuition cost is paid in full.
2. In order to graduate and receive our Missionary Diploma the student must:
3. Complete all assignments, exams, and projects on time.
4. Have the cumulative GPA at the end of the program at least on the level of C (70 out of 100 points).
5. Successfully complete the mission assignment on location.

*After reading this Statement of Faith, sign it and send it back to us with your completed application.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_