

WHEATON COLLEGE

CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR QUESTBRIDGE FINALISTS

Thank you for applying to Wheaton through the QuestBridge program. Due to the requirements of our application process, please submit the following additional materials to our office by November 1.

1. **Supplemental Form and Essay for QuestBridge Finalists:** Complete the attached form in full, and include the required essay. Please remember to read the attached *Community Covenant*.
2. **Pastor's Recommendation:** A recommendation from a pastor, youth pastor, former pastor, Bible study leader, or church official is required. This person should be a mature Christian adult who has had opportunity to observe your spiritual life, but should not be a relative. Complete Part I of the attached form and give it to your reference person, requesting that he/she send the form directly to the Admissions Office or return it to you in a signed and sealed envelope, which you will submit, unopened.
3. **2006-2007 Wheaton College Financial Aid Application:** Please complete the attached forms, including both the student section and the parent section.
4. **FAFSA:** Please complete the 2006-2007 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*. This form may be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov - please submit it directly to Wheaton's Financial Aid office.
5. **Note:** *Wheaton does require all applicants to submit the writing portion of the SAT or ACT tests.*

Please return the above materials by November 1 to:

Admissions Office
Wheaton College
501 College Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187

If you are offered admission to Wheaton College through the QuestBridge College Match scholarship program, then you will be required to submit the following materials:

- Official high school transcript. The transcript should include grades earned, class rank (if available), and GPA for grades 9-11. To be considered official, the transcript must be sent to Wheaton directly from the high school or be enclosed in a signed and sealed high school letterhead envelope.
- Official SAT or ACT scores, including the writing portion. To be considered official, test scores must be sent to Wheaton directly from the testing company.
- 2007-2008 Wheaton College Financial Aid Application (available after January 1st)
- 2007-2008 FAFSA (available after January 1st)

For questions or to request additional information, please contact us or visit our website:

800-222-2419 ♦ admissions@wheaton.edu ♦ www.wheaton.edu

WHEATON COLLEGE
2007 SUPPLEMENTAL FORM AND ESSAY FOR QUESTBRIDGE FINALISTS

I. Legal Name

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

II. Country of Citizenship

U.S.A

Other _____ (Specify)

If you selected "Other" do you have a Permanent Resident Visa for the U.S.? Yes No

III. Personal Christian Faith

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior? Yes No

Denomination _____ Church Name _____

IV. Essay: The essay is a significant component of the application process. Essays are evaluated on the basis of content, writing skill, and creativity. Your essay must be double-spaced and should not exceed the suggested length. Please put your full name on the top right-hand corner of each page, and submit your essay with this supplemental form.

In 500 words, share your personal experience of coming to faith in Christ and how your experiences since have been formative in growing and developing your faith.

V. Community Covenant and Signature: Please read Wheaton's *Community Covenant* (attached). This *Covenant* is designed to express the crucial Christian convictions, aspirations, commitments and responsibilities shared by the members of the Wheaton College campus family. In applying for membership in this community, you should therefore weigh carefully whether these convictions, aspirations and commitments match your own, and whether you can gladly join in fulfilling the *Covenant's* responsibilities.

"I affirm by my signature below that I have carefully read Wheaton's *Community Covenant*, that this *Covenant* expresses my own Christian convictions, aspirations and commitments, and that if I am accepted and subsequently enroll as a student at Wheaton College I will gladly join in fulfilling its responsibilities." (Please explain any questions, reservations or disagreements in an attached statement.)

"I also affirm by my signature that all the information contained in my application, including my essay, is my own work, factually true, and honestly presented."

Print Full Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this completed form by November 1 to:

Admissions Office
Wheaton College
501 College Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187



PART I - To be completed and signed by applicant

Please print or type Part I. Part II is to be completed by your pastor, youth director, or other mature Christian who knows you well and has had the opportunity to observe your spiritual life. *The individual must not be a relative.*

Wheaton ID # (if known) _____ Birthdate _____

Name of Applicant _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Number & Street City State Zip

I am applying (check one): Early Action Regular Action Spring Transfer Fall Transfer

APPLICANT'S WAIVER OF RIGHT OF ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT: I hereby voluntarily waive my right of access to any information contained on this recommendation form and agree that the statement shall remain confidential.

Applicant's Signature Date

PART II - To be completed by pastor/youth director

This form is due in the Wheaton College Admissions Office by:

Early Action: November 1 **Regular Action:** January 10 **Spring Transfers:** October 1 **Fall Transfers:** March 1

Wheaton College applicants must submit a recommendation from a pastor or youth director. In order to promote and maintain the principles and ideals of Wheaton College as a Christian educational institution, special care is exercised in the admission of students. The applicant is expected to evidence a sympathetic appreciation of the standards and the spirit of the College and be in harmony with its purposes. Serious consideration will be given to your recommendation and therefore *we request that you complete this form carefully and thoroughly. An incomplete or late report may lessen this applicant's chances for admission.*

1. In what context have you known the applicant? _____

2. How long have you known the applicant? _____

Check on Scale:

3. How well do you know the applicant?

Very Well Fairly Well Casually

4. To the best of your knowledge has the applicant made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ?
_____ Yes _____ No _____ I don't know

Check on Scale:

5. To what extent is the applicant engaged in the activities of your church?

Enthusiastically participates Is cooperative and usually participates Seldom participates

Check on Scale:

6. In social relationships, the applicant is:

Sought out Well received Tolerated

Check on Scale:

7. What is the applicant's spiritual influence in your church?

Positive Neutral Negative

8. In your opinion, does this student possess any outstanding abilities or spiritual qualities?
Please describe: _____

9. Please list any leadership positions or significant roles the applicant has held in your church. _____

PASTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Student's Name _____

10. To your knowledge, does the applicant have any attitudes or behaviors that are inconsistent with biblical principles or with Wheaton's lifestyle expectations (for example, dishonesty, abuse of alcohol or illegal drugs, or inappropriate internet usage)? (See Wheaton's Community Covenant at www.wheaton.edu/welcome/aboutus_community.html). Please comment.

11. Please describe personal, home or family factors which might affect the applicant's success at Wheaton College.

Please rate this student in the following areas, compared to his/her peer group:

	High	Average	Low	Comments
Cooperation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Leadership:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Reliability:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Motivation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Disposition:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Emotional Stability:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Concern for Others:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Social Maturity:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Spiritual Maturity:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Please make further comments that will help us evaluate this student's application. We welcome any information that will help us differentiate him or her from others. If additional space is required, please attach another sheet.

Recommended Prefer not to make recommendation Not recommended

Name _____ Position _____

Church/Organization _____ Telephone Number _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for completing this recommendation.

Please keep a copy for your records. Be sure both sides have been completed and return to the applicant in a sealed and signed envelope.

If you prefer to mail it directly to us, please inform the applicant when it is sent and mail it to:

Admissions Office, Wheaton College, 501 E. College Ave. Wheaton, IL 60187-5593

WHEATON COLLEGE

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION

UNDERGRADUATE: STUDENT SECTION 2006-2007

Priority deadline for submission of application for **new** students is **February 15, 2006**. Priority deadline for submission of application for all other students is **April 15, 2006**. Late processing may significantly delay processing and receipt of funds.

Instructions: Complete this application at the same time as you complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete this application in its entirety; do not leave questions blank unless instructed to do so. If the answer to a question is zero, write "0". **Incomplete applications will be returned unprocessed.**

Please note: Dependent undergraduates must submit both a Parent Section and a Student Section.

Section A—Student's Identification Information

1. Name: _____ 2. Date of birth: _____
Last First MI Month/Day/Year
3. Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____ 4. Student ID: _____

CURRENT STUDENTS: Financial aid correspondence will be sent to your campus email address. (yourname@wheaton.edu)

NEW STUDENTS: Please provide your email address: _____

ALL STUDENTS: Please provide a cell or other telephone number _____

Section B—Student's Other Information

5. What year will you be in college in 2006-2007?
- freshman (0-29 credits) sophomore (30-59 credits) junior (60-89 credits)
- senior (90 or more credits) fifth year or more undergraduate (approval of academic petition may be required)
6. What is your expected college graduation/completion date (month and year)? _____
7. Please list the semesters for which you are applying for financial aid and the number of hours you plan to take:
- Fall semester: at least 12 hours (full-time) If less than 12 hours, number of hours: _____
- Spring semester at least 12 hours (full-time) If less than 12 hours, number of hours: _____
- Summer term aid requires a separate application available in January**
8. Do you plan to participate in any of the following during the 2006-2007 school year?
- ____ HNGR program (fall) _____ Full Time Internship _____ Consortium
- ____ Study Abroad _____ Honey Rock (excluding High Road) _____ Student Teaching Abroad
- If so, which semester? _____

Note: An additional application may be required for financial aid assistance for these programs

[Freshman and Transfer Students: Skip to Question 11]

Returning Students : Loans will be processed as financial aid awards are packaged

9. Please indicate your loan preference:
- not interested in loans
- interested in subsidized Stafford Loans
- interested in both subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford Loans, if eligible
10. Please indicate your lender preference:
- I have previously borrowed Stafford funds through Wheaton College and would like to keep the same lender
- National Education Wachovia Education Finance (EDUCAID)

11. If you are receiving funds from your parent's employer in the form of an educational benefit paid to you, your parents, or the school on your behalf, list that amount:
(Do not include amounts that will be reported as taxable income) _____

12. Please list all outside scholarships. (Attach separate sheet, if necessary)

Name of Scholarship/Organization	Annual Award	Check if one time
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Questions 13 - 15 are optional, and will be used only to determine your eligibility for available endowed scholarships:

13. Ethnic origin(s) (please be as specific as possible, i.e., German, Chinese, Cherokee, etc.): _____

If you are listing more than one, and there is one you consider to be primary, please circle that primary one.

14. Please check appropriate box if you are: pre-law pre-med pre-nursing

15. Please check any/all that apply: I plan to: Serve in full-time Christian service
 Serve in the pastorate after completing my studies
 Participate in short-term missions opportunities
 Serve as a career missionary
 Serve in ministry in Christian higher education
 Serve in Christian work with children
 Serve in Bible translation after completing my studies

Section C—Student Income and Asset Information

16. What is the current value of all designated retirement accounts in the **student's** name? _____

Notice: The student applicant is ultimately responsible for his/her financial aid, and all relevant correspondence from our office will be directed to the student applicant. While on campus, this correspondence will be sent directly to the student's campus email address. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all requirements are met in order for financial aid to be awarded, processed, and paid to the student's account. If information is requested from our office that the student cannot provide (copies of parents tax documents, etc.), it is the student's responsibility to arrange for these requirements to be met.

Certification: By submitting this form, I certify that all of the information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I will provide documentation to verify the information reported on this application if requested. Furthermore, I have read the notice and agree to honor these terms.

Student: When I accept my financial aid award, I give permission for information to be sent to the donor(s) who have provided grant funds, if applicable and/or to those Wheaton College departments requiring information for administration of financial aid. I understand that this information may include, but is not limited to, such things as my name, my major, my year in school, my GPA, and the amount(s) awarded to me.

Student Signature

Date

Please return this form to: Wheaton College, Financial Aid Office, 501 College Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187 or fax to (630) 752-5413.

WHEATON COLLEGE

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION

UNDERGRADUATE: PARENT SECTION 2006-2007

Priority deadline for submission of application for new students is **February 15, 2006**. Priority deadline for submission of application for all other students is **April 15, 2006**. Late processing may significantly delay processing and receipt of funds.

Instructions: Complete this application at the same time as you complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete this application in its entirety; do not leave questions blank unless instructed to do so. If the answer to a question is zero, write "0". **Incomplete applications will be returned unprocessed.**

Please note: Dependent undergraduates must submit both a parent section and a student section.

Section A—Student's Identification Information

1. Name: _____ 2. Date of birth: _____
Last First MI Month/Day/Year
3. Social Security Number: _____ - - 4. Student ID: _____

CURRENT STUDENTS: Financial aid correspondence will be sent to the student's campus email address (studentname@wheaton.edu).

NEW STUDENTS: Please provide the student's email address: _____

ALL STUDENTS: Please provide a cell or other telephone number _____

Section B—Household Member Information

5. What are the names and ages of the **siblings (or step-siblings) of the student who are in the household and reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**? Please indicate if they will be attending college at least half-time in 2006-2007. **Please do not include the student.**

*The parents must provide more than half of the support of the student's siblings from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, in order for those siblings to be included in the household and reported.

1. Name: _____ Age: _____ Will be attending college '06-'07? yes no
2. Name: _____ Age: _____ Will be attending college '06-'07? yes no
3. Name: _____ Age: _____ Will be attending college '06-'07? yes no
4. Name: _____ Age: _____ Will be attending college '06-'07? yes no
(If you reported more than four on the FAFSA, list the names and ages of the others in the Comments Section F.)

6. Are any of these siblings enrolled at least half-time in graduate school?
 no yes If yes, which one(s)? Name(s): _____

Section C—Parent Information

7. Please indicate parents' marital status: Married Single Separated
 Divorced Widowed

Please provide employment information for each parent/stepparent/legal guardian listed on the FAFSA.

8. Father/Stepfather/Legal Guardian's Information 9. Mother/Stepmother/Legal Guardian's Information
- a. Occupation: _____ a. Occupation: _____
- b. Employer: _____ b. Employer: _____
- c. Work Phone Number: _____ c. Work Phone Number: _____

10. Parents' email address that we may use for financial aid communication. Please update our office if your address changes:

WHEATON COLLEGE COMMUNITY COVENANT

P R E F A C E

Wheaton College is an institution of higher learning, a rigorous academic community that takes seriously the life of the mind. But this description does not exhaust the College's understanding of itself. Wheaton College is also a largely residential community made up of Christians who, according to the College motto, are dedicated to the service of "Christ and His Kingdom."

These features in combination mean that Wheaton College is a complex Christian community of living, learning, and serving that cannot be reduced to a simple model. For example, while the College is not a church, it is yet a community of Christians who seek to live according to biblical standards laid down by Jesus Christ for his body, the church. Or again, while the College is not a religious order, it yet demonstrates some features that are similar to religious orders, communities wherein, for the sake of fulfilling the community's purposes, its members voluntarily enter into a social compact. At Wheaton we call this social compact our community covenant.

For Wheaton's community covenant to serve its stated purpose, it is crucial that each member of the College family understand it clearly and embrace it sincerely. In joining this covenant we are, before the Lord, joining in a compact with other members of the Wheaton College community. If we do not wish to live under the provisions of this compact, we should not agree to it. But if we do agree to it, it should be with the full intention of living with integrity under its provisions.

The goal of campus life at Wheaton College is to live, work, serve, and worship together as an educational community centered around the Lord Jesus Christ. Our mission as an academic community is not merely the transmission of information; it is the development of whole and effective Christians who will impact the church and society worldwide "For Christ and His Kingdom." Along with the privileges and blessings of membership in such a community come responsibilities. The members of the Wheaton College campus community take these responsibilities seriously.

The biblical foundation of Christian community is expressed in Jesus' two great commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-40). Jesus himself perfectly demonstrated the pattern: love for God, acted out in love for others, in obedience to God's Word. Acknowledging our dependence on the power and grace of God, the members of the Wheaton College campus community humbly covenant to live according to this ideal.

The purposes of this community covenant are as follows:

- to cultivate a campus atmosphere that encourages spiritual, moral and intellectual growth.

- to integrate our lives around Christian principles and devotion to Jesus Christ.
- to remove whatever may hinder us from our calling as a Christ-centered academic community.
- to encourage one another to see that living for Christ involves dependence on God's Spirit and obedience to his Word, rather than a passive acceptance of prevailing practices.

Affirming Biblical Standards

We desire to build this covenant on basic biblical standards for godly Christian character and behavior. We understand that our calling includes the following:

- The call to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ over all of life and thought. This involves a wholehearted obedience to Jesus and careful stewardship in all dimensions of life: our time, our possessions, our God-given capacities, our opportunities (Deut. 6:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 1:18; 3:17);
- The call to love God with our whole being, including our minds, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Christ-like love should be the motive in all decisions, actions, and relationships (Matt. 22:37-40; Rom. 13:8-10; 1 John 4:7-12);
- The call to pursue holiness in every aspect of our thought and behavior (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:7; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:15-16);

- The call to exercise our Christian freedom responsibly within the framework of God's Word, humbly submitting ourselves to one another (1 Pet. 5:5; Eph. 5:21) with loving regard for the needs of others (Phil. 2:3-11; Rom. 14:1-23; 1 Thess. 4:9);
- The call to treat our own bodies, and those of others, with the honor due the very temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17-20);
- The call to participate in the worship and activities of the local church, which forms the basic biblically-mandated context for Christian living (Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:25; 1 Tim. 3:14-15).

Living the Christian Life

We believe these biblical standards will show themselves in a distinctly Christian way of life, an approach to living we expect of ourselves and of one another. This lifestyle involves practicing those attitudes and actions the Bible portrays as virtues and avoiding those the Bible portrays as sinful.

According to the Scriptures, followers of Jesus Christ will:

- show evidence of the Holy Spirit who lives within them, such as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal. 5:22);
- "put on" compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and supremely, love (Col. 3:12-14);
- seek righteousness, mercy and justice, particularly for the helpless and oppressed (Prov. 21:3; 31:8-9; Micah 6:8; Matt. 23:23; Gal. 6:10);
- love and side with what is good in God's eyes, and abhor what is evil in God's eyes (Amos 5:15; Rom. 12:9, 16:19);
- uphold the God-given worth of human beings, from conception to death, as the unique image-bearers of God (Gen. 1:27; Psalm 8:3-8; 139:13-16);
- uphold chastity among the unmarried (1 Cor. 6:18) and the sanctity of marriage between a man and woman (Heb. 13:4);
- be people of integrity whose word can be fully trusted (Psalm 15:4; Matt. 5:33-37);
- give faithful witness to the Gospel (Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 3:15), practice good works toward all (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:10; Heb. 10:24; 1 Pet. 2:11), and live lives of prayer and thanksgiving (1 Thess. 5:17-18; James 5:16; Titus 2:8).

By contrast, Scripture condemns the following:

- pride, dishonesty (such as stealing and lying, of which plagiarism is one form), injustice, prejudice, immodesty

in dress or behavior, slander, gossip, vulgar or obscene language, blasphemy, greed and materialism (which may manifest themselves in gambling), covetousness, the taking of innocent life, and illegal activities (Prov. 16:18; 1 Cor. 6:10; Exod. 20:7; Rom. 13:9; Col. 3:8-9; James 2:1-13; Gal. 3:26-29; Rom. 13:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:8-10; Heb. 13:5-6);

- hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and legalism, understood as the imposition of extra-biblical standards of godliness by one person or group upon another (Acts 15:5-11; Matt. 16:6; 23:13-36);
- sinful attitudes and behaviors such as "impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like" (Gal. 5:19-21);
- sexual immorality, such as the use of pornography (Matt. 5:27-28), pre-marital sex, adultery, homosexual behavior and all other sexual relations outside the bounds of marriage between a man and woman (Rom. 1:21-27; 1 Cor. 6:9; Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31).

Exercising Responsible Freedom

Beyond these explicit biblical issues, the Wheaton College community seeks to foster the practice of responsible Christian freedom (Gal. 5:13-14; 1 Pet. 2:16-17). This requires a wise stewardship of mind, body, time, abilities and

resources on the part of every member of the community. Responsible freedom also requires thoughtful, biblically-guided choices in matters of behavior, entertainment, interpersonal relationships, and observance of the Lord's Day.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

—2 Timothy 3:16

Of particular concern in a collegiate environment are those issues related to alcohol, illegal drugs, and tobacco. While the use of illegal drugs or the abuse of legal drugs is by definition illicit, and the use of tobacco in any form has been shown to be injurious to health, the situation regarding beverage alcohol is more complex. The Bible requires moderation in the use of alcohol, not abstinence. Yet the fact that alcohol is addictive to many, coupled with the biblical warnings against its dangers, also suggests the need for caution. The abuse of alcohol constitutes by far our society's greatest substance abuse problem, not to mention the fact that many Christians avoid it as a matter of conscience. Thus the question of alcohol consumption represents a prime opportunity for Christians to exercise their freedom responsibly, carefully, and in Christ-like love.

The Wheaton College community also encourages responsible freedom in matters of entertainment, including the places where members of the College community may seek it, such as television, movies, video, theater, concerts, dances and the Internet. The College assumes its members will be guided in their entertainment choices by the godly wisdom of Philippians 4:8: *“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.”*

Embracing College Standards

To foster the kind of campus atmosphere most conducive to becoming the Christian community of living, learning, and serving that Wheaton College aspires to be, the College has adopted the following institutional standards. These standards embody such foundational principles as self-control, avoidance of harmful practices, the responsible use of freedom, sensitivity to the heritage and practices of other Christians, and honoring the name of Jesus Christ in all we do.

- Wheaton College and all Wheaton College-related functions will be alcohol-free and tobacco-free. This means that the possession or consumption of alcohol or the use of tobacco in any form will be prohibited in, on, or around all campus properties, owned or leased. The same prohibition applies to all Wheaton College vehicles, whether on or off campus, and to all Wheaton College events or programs, wherever they may be held.

While enrolled in Wheaton College, undergraduate members of the community will refrain from the consumption of alcohol or the use of tobacco in all settings.

Other adult members of the College community will use careful and loving discretion in any use of alcohol. They will avoid the serving or consumption of alcohol in any situation in which undergraduate members of the Wheaton College family are or are likely to be present.

- On-campus dances will take place only with official College sponsorship. All members of the Wheaton College

community will take care to avoid any entertainment or behavior, on or off campus, which may be immodest, sinfully erotic, or harmfully violent (Eph. 4:1-2, 17-24; I Tim. 5:2; Gal. 5:22-23).

Conclusion

We, the Wheaton College community, desire to be a covenant community of Christians marked by integrity, responsible freedom, and dynamic, Christ-like love, a place where the name of Jesus Christ is honored in all we do. This requires that each of us keeps his or her word by taking the commitment to this covenant seriously as covenant *keepers*, whatever pressures we may face to do otherwise.

The issue of keeping one’s word is for a Christian an important one. Being faithful to one’s word is a matter of simple integrity and godliness. “Lord, who may live on your holy hill?” asks the Psalmist. “He who keeps his oath, even when it hurts” (15:4), comes the

reply. Christian integrity dictates that if we have voluntarily placed ourselves under Wheaton’s community covenant, we must make every effort to fulfill our commitment by living accordingly.

Keeping our covenant may also on occasion require that we take steps to hold one another accountable, confronting one another in love as we work together to live in faithfulness both to God’s Word and to our own word. Such loving acts of confrontation are at times difficult, but when performed in the right spirit (Gal. 6:1), they serve to build godly character for both the individuals involved and the community as a whole (Matt. 18:15-17). Only in this way, as we are willing to speak the truth in love, will we “grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ” (Eph. 4:15).

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, . . . And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”—Colossians 3:16-17

“You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

—I Corinthians 6:20

