

Ten Spiritual Goals

Statements of Purpose and Vision

The **purpose** of teaching New Church religion is to help students learn, live and love the teachings of the Lord God Jesus Christ revealed in the Old and New Testaments and the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem.

The **vision** for fulfilling this purpose can be described by the following broad goals:

BROAD GOALS

- The Lord:** Help students develop an ongoing and developmentally appropriate affection and understanding of who the Lord Jesus Christ is in their own lives.
An acknowledgment of God produces a conjunction of God with a person and of the person with God. (DP 325)
- The Word:** Foster in students an affection for, a knowledge of, and a belief in the Lord's Word and an ability to read it with understanding and delight.
The Word must be taught mediately through parents, teachers, books, and especially through the reading of it. Nevertheless, it is not taught by these, but by the Lord through them. (DP 172:6)
- The Spiritual World:** Foster in students a delight in and a knowledge of the reality of the spiritual world and its divisions.
That there is a hell and a heaven, and that the life after death is eternal. (AC 5135:3)
- Conjugal Love:** Foster in students an affection for and a knowledge of true marriage.
It is the internal union or union of souls that makes a real marriage ...which happens in the case of people who from their youth had loved, desired and sought from the Lord a lawful and lovely partnership with one, and who spurn and reject roving lusts as an offense to the nostrils. (CL 49)
- Charity:** Foster in students a knowledge of how to live a life of charity and morality and opportunities to practice it.
These truths, that relate to charity toward the neighbor and to love to the Lord, must be learned before it is possible for a person to be regenerated.... They are first implanted therein through parents and teachers: next from the Word of the Lord: and afterwards through the person's own reflection of them. (AC 3762.2)
All people learn from parents and teachers to live morally, and as they grow in years, to add a rational appreciation to these and so to perfect their moral character. (see TCR 443)
- Order:** Foster in students an affection for and a knowledge of the important role public and private worship play in their lives.
Take simply the Ten Commandments, the first of which is that you should worship the Lord God. (AC 1798:3)
- Influx:** Foster in students an understanding and delight in the forms and uses of prayer.
People ought to pray every day and to do so in a humble way. (AC 5135:3)
- The Human:** Foster in students a knowledge of the church specific, its role in their lives and an understanding and appreciation for those of the universal church.
The Lord's Church is spread through the whole world, but its inmost is where the Lord is known and acknowledged, and where the Word is. (AE 313:3)
- Use:** Foster in students a desire and an ability to spread the Lord's Word.
For what is the use of knowing, unless what is known to one be also known to others? (ISB 18)
- Providence:** Foster in students a sense of their place in the stream of Providence and an awareness of the Lord's continual provision for their needs.
For peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He directs all things, and provides all things and that He leads to a good end. (AC 8455)