

GENERAL CHURCH AND ACADEMY K-12 SCIENCE CURRICULUM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND VISION

Amended and Affirmed by HS Science Curriculum Committee – August 2000 and K-8 Curriculum Inservice Committee November, 2000

The **purpose** of this New Church science curriculum is to help students to love and understand the Lord and His natural kingdom by fostering an affection for and understanding of science as a reflection of the Lord as the continual Creator and Sustainer of the universe. In this way students may become respectful and responsible caretakers of the Lord's earthly kingdom as they apply scientific knowledges to the uses of life.

HH 356 To those...who by knowledges and the sciences acquired intelligence and wisdom, and these are all they who have applied all things to the uses of life, and at the same time acknowledged the Divine, have loved the Word, and lived a spiritual moral life; to these, the sciences serve as a means for growing wise; and also of confirming those things which are of faith.

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

BROAD GOALS

1. Assist students in developing an appreciation for and perception of the Lord as being all powerful, present everywhere and knowing everything as He orders His heavenly and earthly kingdoms.
TCR 75 There is an order to the creation of everything in each world. DP 3:2 Maintaining is perpetual creation.
2. Assist students in developing an appreciation for and an understanding that each thing in nature exists by means of its correspondence according to its use.
AC 5116:2 These however who attribute everything to the Divine and nothing to natural forces have the ability to see that every single thing owes its existence to that influx. Not only that, each individual thing also has a correspondence.
3. Assist students in developing an appreciation for and an understanding of the Lord's continual influx through the degrees of the natural and spiritual world as seen in the end, cause and effect of creation.
DLW 184 Knowledge of degrees is like a key for opening the cause of things.
4. Assist students in developing an appreciation for and an understanding of the relationship of the human form to everything in creation.
AC 9555 Everything in nature has relation to the human form...
5. Assist students in developing an appreciation for and an understanding that all creation relates to good and truth and their conjunction.
DP 9 In the universe, and in each and all things in it as created by the Lord, there has been the marriage of good and truth.
6. Assist students in developing an appreciation for and an understanding of equilibrium in all things of the Lord's creation.
HH 589 There is also an equilibrium in all the subjects of the three kingdoms of nature, the mineral, the vegetable, and the animal; for without equilibrium in them nothing can come forth and have permanent existence.
7. Assist students in developing an appreciation for and an understanding of the uses manifested in the forms and substances of the natural world created for the use of the human race.
DLW 46 Neither can it be seen that from these are all things of nature, unless nature is regarded, not from some of its forms, which are merely objects of sight, but from uses in their succession and order.
8. Assist students in developing their freedom and rationality by encouraging curiosity (sense of wonder), problem-solving, and responsible decision making.
AC 1895:2 ...Nobody can possibly become rational unless some delight in or affection for such knowledge and cognitions burns within him..
9. Assist students in developing an image of what is infinite and eternal in the variety, fructification and multiplication present in the Lord's creation.
DP 56:3 [There is] an image of the infinite and eternal in the fructification and multiplication of all things.
10. Assist students in developing a delight and affection for the beauty, order and harmony in the Lord's created universe.
AC 4409 Everything seen by one's external sight likewise has a connection with what is true and good, since these have to do with the way objects are shaped and so with their beauty and the delight this gives. Anyone who is clearheaded can see that every single thing in the natural creation has a connection with what is true and good, and from this can recognize that the whole natural creation is a theatre in which the Lord's kingdom is represented.

The **strategies** for implementing these purpose and vision statements are contained in each grade level's curriculum.