

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The YMCA, initiated in 1844 by George Williams, was originally a refuge for prayer and Bible study for young men who had relocated to London from rural areas in search of work. Following this, in 1851, Thomas Valentine Sullivan established the first YMCA in the United States at Boston's Old South Church, continuing this legacy of Christian values. Over the years, the YMCA has grown and transformed, diverging from its initial vision yet retaining its foundational principles.

At the YMCA of the Fox Cities, we uphold the founding philosophy of nurturing Spirit, Mind, and Body. Our approach focuses on comprehensive health and wellbeing, giving balanced attention to each aspect, and includes spiritual development as a key component of our community engagement.

This spiritual emphasis starts with our team, who practice compassion, love, and respect in their interactions, embodying a culture reflective of Christ's teachings. This philosophy is palpable across our organization. Our activities include prayers for colleagues, programs, and members, alongside guiding the youth towards the compassionate teachings of Jesus Christ through our core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. Our commitment to God's vision is evident in our meetings, which often commence with devotional reflections, prayer, and sometimes scripture.

While our roots lie in Christian faith, the YMCA of the Fox Cities warmly welcomes all individuals. Our strength stems from our daily application of Christian principles in every service and interaction. We are committed to upholding and honoring the YMCA's rich Christian heritage in all our endeavors.

We extend an invitation to you to join us in this mission, ensuring that the Christian emphasis ('C' in YMCA) remains at the forefront and that our community is inclusive and open to all.

