



Guidelines for Teaching/Speaking at Creekside Church

We respect all Christian denominations and traditions. However, in the Wesleyan/Methodist tradition, we do not believe in the Calvinistic doctrine of limited atonement/election or in irresistible grace. We also differ from the common understandings of the charismatic movement when it comes to the gifts of tongues, prophecy, and healing. While we do have a sacramental understanding of Communion and Baptism, we do not view any other acts of the Church as sacramental (though we do view many other acts as highly sacred and significant). If you are speaking to a Creekside-sponsored group, please respect our position on these matters by either affirming them or avoiding these issues altogether. Any questions regarding these or any other doctrinal issues that may be considered controversial should be discussed with the Senior Pastor before the sermon, lesson, talk, etc. is given.

It is our hope and expectation that your time at Creekside will be used to build up the Church and promote unity amongst the body. If there is anything that may be interpreted as destructive or divisive (to an individual or to the larger group), please do not go there. We are giving you our trust; please honor it.

Generally speaking, this is what we believe (please stay within these guidelines):

1. About God

God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all that is. God is infinite in wisdom, power and love. God is all-powerful, righteous and just. God has eternally existed in three indivisible "persons;" the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2, Matt. 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Cor. 3:14

2. About Jesus Christ

Jesus is the Christ - the promised Messiah and Deliverer, our Savior and the Savior of the world. We believe that Jesus lived a life that was truly human and truly divine. We believe that the unmatched depth of God's love is revealed within the life and ministry of Jesus' preaching, teaching, and healing, and in his suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He rose from the dead to demonstrate his power over sin and death. He ascended into heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to

consummate God's kingdom on earth. We believe the living Christ is with us through the Holy Spirit. Through faith in Christ we experience the joy of salvation.

Matt. 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30, Heb. 4:14,15; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Rom. 1:3,4; Acts 1: 9-11; 1 Tim. 6:14-15, Titus 2:13.

3. About the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit as God present with us for guidance, comfort and strength. We affirm the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives as God's touch, God's personal activity in the church, among Christian friends, and with each of us individually. The Holy Spirit's work in our lives produces spiritual gifts and the "fruit of the Spirit" - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Gal. 5:22-23, 25; Rom. 8:26; 2 Cor. 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts. 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:12, 3:16; Eph. 1:13, 5:18.

4. About the Bible

The Bible is God's word to us, our primary source of belief, and our primary authority for action. Human authors wrote the Bible as God inspired them. We believe God guided the early church in selecting the most faithful and useful books as Holy Scripture (Canon). We believe God is at work in us today in our thoughtful reading, meditation and interpretation of Scripture, individually and with others. We interpret the ancient witness in light of both its original meaning and its message for us today.

2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Prov. 30:5

5. About Human Beings

God created humans in God's own spiritual image, that we might be like God in character. Humans are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all are inclined to disobedience toward God. We often turn our backs on God, separate ourselves from Him, and put our own will at the center. We also separate ourselves from other people, from God's created order, and from our own best selves. This disobedience is called "sin." Sin separates people from God and causes many problems in life. We yearn for reunion with God, for redemption, for salvation.

Genesis 1:27; Ps. 8:3-6; Is. 53:6a, 59:1,2; Romans 3:23; Rom. 7:15.

6. About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled, self-centered life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith. When we are saved we are given a new nature, we are turned around and set on a new course, reborn to a new life in Christ. We call this "eternal life."

Rom. 5:1, 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; 1 Titus 3:5; Gal. 3:26.

7. About the Church

In the New Testament, the Greek ekklesia, translated "church," means a "called out" group, or "assembly." Thus, the church means "those who have been called out to Jesus Christ." The church can be thought of in two ways. First, there is the church universal which includes all believers in every place and time, both living and dead. This is what the Apostle's Creed means when it refers to "the holy catholic ('little c') church." Second, there is the local church through which the universal church is evident. In the local church people unite themselves voluntarily together in accordance with Christ's will under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes. Note that neither of these definitions mentions anything about a place, a building, or an institution. The church is present when we come together as a gathered community and express our faith in worship, nurture, discipleship, outreach and witness.

8. About the Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God refers to God's reign, the manifestation of God's purpose and will. We believe the kingdom is already here (Mark 1:15); it is also yet to come. It is both a present reality and a future hope. God calls us as individuals and as communities of faith into ministries of compassion, reconciliation and justice. As we faithfully respond to God's grace and the various ministries God provides and calls us to, we begin to live and model kingdom lives.

Please refrain from advertising products or books as a part of your speaking unless prior approval has been given by staff or ministry leader

Please refrain from using business names in a negative manner

Please refrain from vulgar language or the promotion of drug or alcohol use



Teacher/Speaker Agreement Form

Please be prepared to provide a brief outline if requested

I, (print name) _____, have read and agree to adhere to the guidelines laid out in the Creekside Church Speaker/Teacher Agreement.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Ministry (MomCo, Student, Women's, etc.):
