

We are a non-denominational church

A non-denominational church is one that functions independently from a larger denomination. All denominational heritages are welcome, but not one is endorsed exclusively. Shannon Oaks Church is centered by Jesus and led by His Spirit. We are governed and shepherded by the Lead Pastor and Elders as they interpret His Written and Revealed Word for the local body. The Lead Pastor is the chief visionary and preacher. The Elders provide critical support and wisdom for the Lead Pastor while ensuring that the journey is healthy for the church. The Staff handles the administration of the church and serves to facilitate the vision in each area of ministry. Our Stewardship Team negotiates significant financial decisions and works closely with our staff to decide annual budgets.

Woman in Leadership (Judges 4-5, Romans 16, Acts 2, Romans 2)

We support women who lead for the Kingdom

God is an intentional and purposeful Creator. His design is perfect. God created man to be the head of creation, to represent Him on all the earth. He created woman to be equal in value, but complementary in position. God is also a gracious Redeemer who loves to redeem His purposes. When man fails to represent God, God empowers woman to fill the void. Women have been designed by God, gifted by God and are used by God to accomplish His purposes. Women are welcomed and encouraged to serve in positions that complement the headship and authority God has given to the man. We do not endorse women as a Lead Pastor or an elder of the church. We expect and equip men to fulfill their God-given purpose as the head who leads.

Baptisms

God has never been One to ask for obedience for the sake of obedience. What He seeks is obedience through faith because of the resulting power that is unleashed for His Kingdom. Scripture speaks of Water Baptism and Spirit Baptism. Baptism, by nature, is done by immersion. Both are gifts from God to His children and viewed as critical in the life of believers.

- **We believe in water baptism by immersion** (Leviticus 16, Matthew 3, Colossians 2)
 - Water Baptism originated with the ceremonial washing of water for the Israelites in the tabernacle process of approaching the Holy Presence of God. It is commanded of believers in the New Testament as a declaration of commitment to Jesus Christ. It is an experience that, like circumcision in the OT, is designed by God to consistently remind the flesh of the new nature and identity now established in Christ.
- **We believe in baptism by the Holy Spirit** (Acts 1,2,8,10,19)
 - Spirit Baptism is likened to the tabernacle flask of oil, the oil of anointing in the tabernacle process of approaching the Holy Presence of God. It embodies the empowerment a believer needs to walk victoriously in the new life and identity Christ has come to offer.

Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12)

We believe in the giving and exercising of the gifts of the Spirit.

Through the presence and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, God endows gifts to His children that, when exercised, edify the gift-receiver and the local church, as well as glorify God. We request that the public expression of these spiritual gifts during our corporate gatherings be funneled through the discretion of our Elders: prophecy, words of knowledge, tongues, interpretation of tongues.

- Speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 13-14)
 - This is a spiritual gift given by God, unintelligible to man. It has great value for the individual in prayer to God and great value to the body only when it is interpreted. It is not considered to be a supreme gift (one that edifies everyone).

Laying on of Hands (Luke 4, Acts 8)

We encourage the laying on of hands.

Throughout the Scriptures, the laying on of hands is mentioned in conjunction with healing, anointing, spiritual gifting and imparting blessings from God. When done in alignment with God's Word, the laying on of hands is a way of establishing the territory that belongs to the Kingdom of God and, therefore, is subject to His rule and reign.

Giving (Matthew 6, Malachi 3, 1 Timothy 6, 2 Corinthians 9)

We believe God created people to give.

Money is one of the most powerful forces on the planet. Scripture says, the love of money is the root of all evil. The giving of our finances is one of God's strategies for tethering our hearts to the ministry of His Kingdom, instead of venturing into the shadows of the Kingdom of Darkness. Giving also demonstrates a key facet of our new identity in Jesus. It reminds us that we are not our provider, but we are the children of a good, loving and all-owning God. Scripture indicates that God honors a generous, sacrificial and cheerful giver.

Communion (Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11)

We offer the opportunity to observe communion every week.

Communion is to be experienced in a posture of humility and readiness to receive/declare the implications of Jesus' sacrifice for us. It is a gospel-saturated gift that reminds us who we are and whose we are. Communion unleashes God's power and victory in the lives of those who partake.

Second Coming (Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4)

We believe Jesus is coming again.

According to Scripture, Jesus will return to earth and destroy the already-defeated Enemy, and establish His eternal rule and absolute authority here. The focus of The Church as we await Christ's return is faithfulness to His mission of reconnecting people to Himself and maturing His Bride for that relationship. Beyond this, speculation on the part of man is best left to God's plan and timing.

Salvation (John 3, Ephesians 2, Romans 3, Romans 10, Romans 12, Philippians 2)

We believe salvation is necessary to experience life in Jesus.

Disconnected from God, all people are destined for a broken life and eternal punishment.

In His great love for the world, the Holy Spirit draws undeserving people to salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ's exemplary blameless life, sacrificial atoning death, and eternally victorious resurrection.

- **Salvation is received, not achieved.** Faith begins when we submit to the Holy Spirit's prompting to repent, or change our mind to align with God's truth about His identity and ours. Speaking these truths over ourselves activates God's saving power in us.
- **Salvation is revealed, not concealed.** When our thoughts are transformed, our behavior follows and evidences a new identity we have in Jesus. Faith is not a one-time check point, but an increasingly regular practice in the life of a believer.
- **Salvation is now and forever.** By renewing our minds and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive God's promise of deliverance from eternal condemnation and we experience His reality of heaven here on earth.