

OAK TREE COMMUNITY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe...

I. ...THE BIBLE

- As originally written, was inspired by God and is the product of Spirit-controlled men
- Is the absolute truth and contains no error at all
- Is just as relevant today as when it was written and is the only standard for all human thought and activity

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

II. ...GOD

- Was not created but created all things, including mankind, in six literal days, and that nothing came through any form of evolution (*Genesis 1-2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16,17*)
- Is perfectly holy and worthy of all possible worship and love (*Exodus 20:2, 3; Revelation 4:11*)
- Exists in three distinct persons – the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit – who are equal in every way yet have separate functions (*John 14:16-17*)

III. ...JESUS

- Is equal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, and thus was never created but was an active part of the creation of all things (*Genesis 1:26; John 1:1-3; 10:27-30; 14:8-14; Colossians 1:15-17*)
- Was miraculously conceived in Mary, a virgin, by the Holy Spirit, and that He is at the same time both fully God and fully human (*Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14*)
- Lived His entire life without any sin; died on the cross, as prophesied in the Old Testament, as a substitute for all people; and bodily arose from the grave on the third day, as prophesied in the Old Testament, to prove His power over death and give hope for all people (*Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 12-19*)
- Ascended into Heaven after His resurrection from death and is at God the Father's right hand as High Priest making intercession for all Christians (*Acts 1:9; 7:55-56; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9-10; 7:25; 8:6; 12:2; 1 John 2:1*)
- Will return to collect all Christians into the air to take with Him to Heaven; will return to rule as King on earth; and will ultimately judge all those who have rejected His salvation (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:4, 7-15*)

IV. ...THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Is equal with God the Father and Jesus Christ and was actively involved with the creation of all things (*Genesis 1:2, 26; Matthew 28:19; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14*)
- Has a direct ministry toward unbelievers by convicting of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and bears witness to the truth of the Gospel (*John 16:8-11; Acts 5:29-32*)
- Has a direct ministry toward Christians as the agent in the new creation; and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, helps and indwells every true believer (*Acts 11:16; Romans 8:14-27; Ephesians 1:13,14; Hebrews 9:14*)

V. ...SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Have been given to Christians by the Holy Spirit for the building up of the members of the church (*1 Corinthians 12:1-13*)
- Are not, and will not be, in effect forever, and that some gifts ceased by the time of the completion of the Bible, these being “sign-gifts” that authenticated Jesus’ apostles and their message; these include, but are not limited to, the gifts of speaking and interpreting tongues, various miracles, healing, and supernatural knowledge (*Mark 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:11-13; Hebrews 2:3-4*)

VI. ...ANGELS

- Are supernatural beings who were created by God to be His servants (*Job 38:7; Hebrews 1:4, 13-14*)
- Are asexual beings who can neither marry nor procreate (*Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25; Hebrews 1:13-14*)

VII. ...SATAN

- Was originally a good angel created by God (*Genesis 1:31; Ezekiel 28:11-15; Colossians 1:16*)
- Was filled with pride which was his sin causing him to be cast out of Heaven (*Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:16-19; 1 Timothy 3:6*)
- Is the counterfeit god of this world and the author of all the powers of darkness and sin (*2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:13-15; Ephesians 2:1-2; 6:11-12*)
- Is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire (*Revelation 20:10*)

VIII. ...EACH PERSON

- Is born with a sinful nature that cannot be humanly controlled and causes him to naturally choose evil over good (*Romans 3:10-11; 5:12; 7:14-25*)
- Must accept Jesus' salvation personally; this cannot be done for him or by him for someone else (*Romans 10:9-10, 13*)
- Has the ability to accept or reject God's plan for his life, even after salvation (*Romans 6:1-2, 13*)
- Will stand before God to give an account of his life, either for reward or for judgment (*Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12*)
- Will live forever, either with God or separated from God (*Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:15; 21:3-4, 24-27; 22:3-5*)

IX. ...SIN

- Was not created by God, but was a voluntary response of mankind causing us to fall from our sinless and happy state (*Genesis 3:1-6, 24*)
- Will require us to give an account of our lives to God, but will not be able to be used as a defense or excuse (*Romans 1:18-32; 5:10-19; 14:12*)

X. ...SALVATION

- Is available to all of mankind (*John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 John 2:2*)
- Can come only by God's grace through an individual person's faith in Jesus Christ, and that humans are unable to merit salvation by themselves (*Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7*)
- Is available because Jesus freely became a man like us, but without sin, and willingly died on the cross on our behalf, took our sins upon Himself, and made a full payment for our sins (*Isaiah 53:4-7; Philippians 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 4:10*)
- Includes a complete pardon of sin and peace with God for those who accept Jesus' salvation (*Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1, 9; 8:1; Ephesians 1:7*)
- Institutes a change in the person wherein the person is given God's divine nature and eternal life, shown through the person's changed lifestyle (*John 3:3, 6-8; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:4*)
- Is forever and can neither be taken away from a person nor lost by a person (*John 10:28-30; Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:13; Jude 24*)

XI. ...THE CHURCH

- Universal
 - Was instituted by Jesus while He was still on earth (*Matthew 16:18; 18:15-17*)
 - Began on the Day of Pentecost after Jesus' ascension into Heaven (*Acts 2:1-4, 41-47*)
 - Is comprised of all who have salvation through Jesus Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:13*)
 - Is called "the Body of Christ", and Jesus is its ultimate authority (*Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18*)
 - Will be completed when Jesus comes for it at the Rapture (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)
- Local
 - Is the physical representation through local assemblies of Christians who have covenanted with each other for its service, well-being, and future (*Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; Philemon 2; Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7,14*)
 - Holds the absolute right of self-government within the confines defined in the Scriptures (*1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9*)
 - Is to regularly observe the two ordinances:
 - Baptism, the immersion of a believer under water, as a symbol of the believer's identification with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and is a prerequisite to membership in the local church (*Matthew 3:16; 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; 8:26-39; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12*)
 - The Lord's Supper, which is the commemoration of Jesus' death until He comes, and should be preceded by self-examination (*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32*)

XII. ...ALL CHRISTIANS

- Are to live their lives in this current world without being a part of the evil in the world (*John 17:14-16; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 1 John 2:15-16*)
- Are responsible to confess their own sin to God in order to stay in fellowship with Him (*1 John 1:9*)
- Are to actively seek to become like Jesus through a continual process of growing closer to God through prayer and reading the Bible (*Romans 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:13-16*)
- Have the same commission in this world – to make disciples of Jesus of all other people in the world (*Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:27; Acts 1:8*)
- Are to be an active part of a local assembly of Christians (*Hebrews 10:19-25*)

XIII. ...THE END-TIMES DOCTRINES OF

- The Rapture of the Church (*John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; James 5:8*)
- The Resurrection of the Dead in Christ (*1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:4*)
- The Change of the Living in Christ (*1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)
- The Judgment Seat of Christ (*1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10*)
- The Tribulation (*Matthew 24:9-28; Revelation 6-18*)
- The Second Coming and Armageddon (*Matthew 24:29-51; Revelation 19*)
- The Resurrection of Old Testament and Tribulation Saints (*Daniel 12:1-2; Revelation 20:4*)
- The Judgment of the Nations (*Matthew 25:31-46*)
- The Millennial Reign (*Psalms 72:8; Isaiah 11:4-5; 32:1; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Revelation 20:6, 14*)
- The Throne of David (*Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30*)
- The Great White Throne Judgment (*Revelation 20:11-15*)
- The New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem, and Eternity (*Revelation 21-22*)

XIV. ...CIVIL GOVERNMENT

- Is divinely appointed for the interests and good order of human society (*Romans 13:1-7*)
- And those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things in direct contrast to the Word of God (*Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; 23:5; 1 Timothy 2:1-2*)

XV. ...GENDER, SEXUALITY, & MARRIAGE

- **Gender** is designed by God and limited to "male" and "female" determined by biology, not preference, identification, or medical procedure (*Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 19:4, 12*)
- **Gender** does not affect the value, worth, or importance of an individual because humanity was created equally in God's image, and each person continues to bear that image, albeit marred by sin (*Genesis 1:26-28; 9:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:22-24; James 3:9*)
- **Sexuality** is designed for **marriage**, which is to be between one biological man and one biological woman. Any union and all sexual activity outside of this definition of marriage, whether heterosexual or homosexual, is sin (*Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-5; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 7:1-5, 9; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 1:10*)
- **Marriage** is built on a God-ordained, functional hierarchy in which the man is to be the leader of the marriage and family, reflecting the relationship between Christ and the Church (*Genesis 2:16-17; 3:16-20; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-33*)