

OCC MEMBERSHIP AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Scriptures

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

(II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31-32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32)

Triune God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

(Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:5-6)

God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

(Luke 10:21-22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1-2; 2:5-6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6)

Jesus Christ – His Person and Work

We believe that Jesus Christ is God, having existed eternally. When he was incarnated, he was completely God (begotten, not made) and completely man. We believe that he is the only hope for sinners, because he was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, was crucified, buried and arose bodily from the dead as our substitute paying for our sins. He has gone bodily into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our Advocate.

(Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 8:32; 9:5; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30-31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-10; Hebrews 7:25; 9:28; I Timothy 3:16)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, having existed eternally. He is a person and not simply a force. He was involved in Creation and in the inspiration of Scripture. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. The salvation, which was secured by Jesus Christ, is applied to his people by the Holy Spirit. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and secures their adoption as heirs in the family of God. We believe that His work in regeneration is not the result of water baptism or any outward ritual. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

(Luke 12:12; John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:9-14; Romans 8:9-11; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:11-12; I Corinthians 12:11)

Angels

We believe that God created a multitude of spiritual beings called “angels,” which are not to be worshiped. Although they are a higher order of creation than man, they are created to serve God and to worship Him. Righteous angels continue to serve God and work both in the heavenly sphere and on earth. By his disobedience, Satan (a created angel) is the author of sin, and is the open and declared enemy of God and

man. He and the angels which followed in his rebellion have been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and they shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire.

(Luke 2:9-14; Hebrews 1:6-7, 14; Hebrews 2:6-7; Revelation 5:11-14, 19:10, 22:9; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:1-14; Genesis 3:1-15; Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 16:20)

Man & the Rebellion

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they rebelled against God when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice - alienated from God, hostile to His reign over their lives, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

(Genesis 1:26-30; 9:6; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:19-32; Colossians 1:21; Romans 5:12-14; John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14)

The Gospel

We believe that God, in spite of our rebellion, has good and gracious purposes for this world. This good news is centered on what Jesus accomplished through his crucifixion and resurrection: the message is that what He did for us is enough to declare us righteous before God, if we simply believe. It is the primary call of the Church to proclaim this good news, and make disciples of all nations.

(Mark 1:15; 1 Corinth. 1:21-25; 2:12-16; 15:1-4; Romans 1:16-17; 10:13-15; Acts 1:8; Luke 24:46-49; Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20)

The Christian Life: Repentance and Faith

We believe that the believer is saved by faith alone in God's justifying grace through the work of Christ. That, however, must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

(Mark 1:15; Acts 17:30; 3:19; 2 Corinthians 7:10; John 3:16; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 1:17; James 2:14-26)

The Church and the Ordinances

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and Communion, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

(Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:19-21; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25; Matt. 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; I Corin. 11:23-26; John 13: 1-17)

The World to Come

We believe that God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. Someday, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

(Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; I Thessalonians 4:15; II Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 4:5; 15:12-58; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Hebrews 9:27-28; II Peter 3:17-18; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15)