

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 (*Psalm 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*)