



WILLINGDON
CHURCH



Statement of Faith

Willingdon Church Position Papers



Statement of Faith

Willingdon Church Elders
(Reaffirmed February 15, 2012)

1. GOD

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- a. We believe in God the Father, the Creator and Sustainer of this universe, who in His infinite wisdom and love planned the redemption of mankind and accomplished it through Jesus Christ.
- b. We believe in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, was crucified for our sins, rose from the dead and was exalted to the right hand of God.
- c. We believe in the Holy Spirit who effects redemption in the lives of those who believe in Christ. He convicts, guides, teaches, rebukes, indwells, empowers, comforts, intercedes, unites believers into one body, and glorifies Christ.

Gen. 1; Deut. 6:4-6; Ps. 139; Is. 40; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 1:1, 18; 4:24; 15:26; Rom. 8:1-17, 26-27; 2 Cor. 3:17; 5:19; 13:14; Phil. 2:6-8; 1 Tim. 3:16; 6:15-16; Heb. 11:6; Jude 25

2. THE REVELATION OF GOD

We believe that God has made His power and deity known in creation. He revealed Himself also in word and deed in the Old Testament. He revealed Himself supremely and finally in the Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament. We believe that all Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, are inspired by God as men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit. We accept the entire Bible to be without error in the original writings, the infallible Word of God and the final, complete and authoritative guide for the faith and life of Christian discipleship.

Ps. 19; 119:105; Lk. 24:27, 44; Rom. 1:18-23; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-21; Heb. 1:1-2; 8:5-13

3. MAN AND SIN

We believe that man was created in the image of God, sinless and in fellowship with God, with a free will to make moral choices. By sinning he brought death upon the whole human race. As a consequence all people are sinful by nature, guilty before God and in need of forgiveness and restoration.

Gen. 1:27; 3:1-19; Mt. 19:13-15; Rom. 3:10-18; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3

4. SALVATION BY GRACE

We believe that there is one God and Mediator between God and men, the Man Jesus Christ, who by his substitutionary death has redeemed humanity from the power of sin, death and eternal punishment. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ, and by faith alone. Those who repent receive forgiveness of sins and by the power of the Holy Spirit are born into the family of God, and, as faithful disciples, joyfully obey God's Word.

Acts 2:42, 46; Eph. 1:13-14; 2:8-9; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 4:12; 9:15-28; 1 Jn. 1:9

5. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and transforms every believer into the image of Christ and enables the believer to witness to their Lord in daily life. The Christian lives in fellowship with God and other believers and joins a local church at baptism. Every believer contributes to the building of the body of Christ with their material and spiritual gifts. By the means of grace provided by Christ, the believer seeks to grow to maturity as this is expressed particularly in the "fruit of the Spirit." Since every believer's body is a "temple of the Holy Spirit" he or she refrains from those things which harm the body and the mind. In striving for perfection the believers recognizes their complete dependence on God and, are constantly in need of His forgiving and cleansing grace.

Mt. 5:14-16; Jn. 12:26; 15:4-5; Rom. 6; 8:9-16; 12; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:1-4; 4:1-16; Tit. 2:11-14; Heb. 12:14; 1 Jn. 3:17-18

6. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

We believe that the church was established through Christ's redemptive work in history, and that it is comprised of all who put their faith in Him and who are baptized by the Spirit into one body, regardless of nation, race or social class. Despite the diversity in congregations and denominations, the Holy Spirit creates unity among all the people of God. The local church is an association of baptized believers.

Mt. 18:15-35; Jn. 13:1-17; Jn. 17-21; Acts 2:38-44; 15:1-28; 1 Cor. 12-14; 2 Cor. 2:6-8; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:10-22; 5:21, 25-27; 1 Thes. 5:11, 14; 2 Thes. 3:6, 14-15; Rev. 5:9

7. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the Gospel is "the power of God unto salvation," and that the command to make disciples of all nations is the primary task of the church. Every member of the church is called to participate in the mission of the church as he/she is enabled by God's grace.

Mt. 2:23; 11:5; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20

8. THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

We believe that God through the Holy Spirit has endowed all His children with gifts for Christian ministries. All are called to use their gifts to build up the body of Christ and to glorify the Lord. Some members of the church are called to lead, to preach, to teach and to care for the church. For this reason, God gives some to be Elders and Pastors. The church commissions or ordains people for such ministries and loves, respects, and supports those who serve faithfully. Those in leadership are to live exemplary Christian lives.

Is. 6:1-10; Jer. 3:15; Acts 6:1-6; 20:28; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:1-10; 5:17-22; Tit. 1:5-9; 3:10; 1 Pet. 5:1-5

9. CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

We believe that Christians should be baptized in water upon confession of their faith in Christ. We practice baptism by immersion, although we receive into fellowship those who have been baptized on confession of their faith by another mode. By baptism a believer enters into the fellowship of the local church and commits him/herself to a life of discipleship and service.

Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:2-6; Col. 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 1 Pet. 3:21

10. THE LORD'S SUPPER

In preparation for the fellowship of the Lord's Supper, all believers examine themselves. All those who understand its meaning, confess Jesus Christ as Lord in word and life, are accountable to their congregation and are living in right relationship with God and others are invited to participate in the Lord's Supper.

Mt. 16:24; 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-32; Rev. 3:20

11. MARRIAGE AND THE HOME

We believe that God instituted marriage. Marriage is a sacred union between one man and one woman. Believers who marry should have a common Christian commitment; a believer should not marry an unbeliever. We believe that divorce, and all sex outside of marriage constitutes a violation of God's intention for marriage. Christian parents should nurture their children through exemplary living, prayer,

worship, instruction in God's Word, and godly discipline.

Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-24; Prov. 5:18-19; Mal. 2:13-16; Mt. 5:31-32; 19:4-9; 1 Cor. 7:10-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:22-23; 6:4; Heb. 13:4

12. THE LORD'S DAY AND WORK

We believe that God has called us to work and that work is honourable. However, the Christian also needs to have time for worship, instruction in the faith and fellowship. Therefore, following the example of the New Testament Church, we set aside one day a week for spiritual upbuilding and limit our labours on that day to work of necessity and deeds of mercy.

Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-10; Mt. 6:33; Lk. 24:1-36; Acts 2:1; 20:7; Rom. 14:5-6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:11-12; Heb. 10:23-25

13. CHRISTIAN INTEGRITY

Christians are obligated to speak the truth at all times. As a witness to our integrity we affirm that we will tell the truth at all times in keeping with what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Also, we avoid holding membership in lodges and secret societies which may require an oath, or may otherwise conflict with allegiance to Christ and his church, but seek rather to foster fellowship among believers.

Mt. 5:33-37; 23:1-12; Jn. 18:19-23; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:6-13; Jas 5:12

14. THE STATE

We believe that God has instituted the state. Our chief concern and primary allegiance, however, is to Christ's kingdom.

We pray for our government, respect those in authority, pay taxes, obey all laws not in conflict with the Word of God, and witness against corruption and injustice in society.

Mt. 22:17-21; Acts 4:19; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-6; 1 Pet. 2:13-14

15. LOVE AND PEACE

We believe that Christians should live by the law of love and practice forgiveness of enemies as taught and exemplified by Jesus. We seek to be agents of reconciliation; our bond with other followers of Jesus transcends all racial, social and national barriers. We view violence as contradictory to the new nature of the Christian. In times of national conscription or war, we will teach and encourage alternate service where possible.

Ex. 20:1-17; Mt. 5:17-28, 38-45; Rom. 12:19-21; 13:8-10; 1 Pet. 2:19-23

16. CHRIST'S FINAL TRIUMPH

We believe that God will some day bring His purposes to a final consummation. We believe that Christ will return visibly, personally and bodily. When Christ returns the dead in Christ will be raised bodily and together with the living believers they will be bodily transformed and they shall be forever with the Lord. In the end all evil powers will be defeated and whereas the ungodly shall suffer eternal punishment, the saints shall enjoy eternal bliss in the presence of God.

Is. 2:4; 61:1-11; Mt. 25:13, 31-46; Mk. 9:43-48; Lk. 16:22-23; Jn. 5:25-29; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:21-58; Phil. 1:21-24; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Tit. 2:11-14; 2 Pet. 3:3-13; Rev. 1:15, 20-22

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