

LAKWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that:

1. There is one God, sovereign over and Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior and Redeemer through his death, burial and resurrection.
3. Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Father, He now is our High Priest and advocate.
4. The Holy Spirit is an active and operative part of the Trinity who indwells, guides, instructs and empowers all Christians .
5. Satan exists and is working to frustrate God's plan to redeem the world. He is actively seeking to tempt and destroy all Christians.
6. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His Will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
7. Man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through salvation in Jesus Christ achieved through profession of faith and water baptism can a spiritual life be obtained.
8. True worship is a life of service to God and others as holy priests.
9. Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that a plurality of elders should exercise authority over autonomous local congregations.
10. There will be a bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.
11. Marriage has been instituted by God. The Lakewood Church of Christ, hereinafter called LCOC, defines "marriage" as the exclusive covenantal union of a biological man and a biological woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in these Articles.
12. Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual relations outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as "porneia" including but not limited to adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia) are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and LCOC. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness.
13. The leadership of the church and worship services has been given, by God, to baptized adult males. However, there are many public and private ways for women to serve beyond these roles.
14. Every minister, board member, shepherd, deacon, or employee, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith. This shall be a prerequisite, and continual condition, for these positions.
15. Agreement with this Statement of Faith shall be a prerequisite and condition for congregational membership.