

Kannapolis Church of Christ

Statement of Faith and Practices

The Kannapolis church of Christ is not bound by any creed or doctrinal statement devised by human beings. Our ultimate commitment is to the teaching of the Bible, which we regard as God's rule of faith and practice for the church. This document expresses basic beliefs and practices of the Kannapolis church.

DEITY

We believe God exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They all share the essence of Deity and exist eternally.

God created the universe, the earth and all creatures that inhabit the earth. He created man and woman in his image and gave them dominion over other created beings (Genesis 1-2). God continues to sustain the universe by his power.

For a time the Son lived on the earth, having been born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-28; John 1:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Galatians 4:5). Jesus exemplified the virtues by which all people should live (Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 2:23), died by crucifixion, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven where he is at God's right hand (Matthew 27:32-28:10; Luke 23:26-24:53; Acts 2:22-36). We await his coming when the dead are raised and the kingdom is delivered to the Father (Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:13-5:11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28).

The Holy Spirit guided the production of Scripture (2 Peter 1:20-21) and now helps Christians to live the way God desires (Acts 2:38; Romans 8:1-17; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

THE BIBLE

We regard the Bible as God's revelation of himself and his will to humanity. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are inspired by God, and this authoritative Scripture is sufficient for the teaching and guidance of the church (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

SALVATION

We believe that God created men and women with free will. Although people make many choices that are consistent with God's will, all people, when they reach an age of moral discernment, violate God's will. Thus, all people are sinners and need to be saved (Romans 3:23).

Jesus died as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of all humanity. When people confess their faith in Jesus, turn to God in repentance, and are baptized into Christ, God forgives their sins and gives them the Holy Spirit to help them in living the Christian life. (Acts 2:38; Romans 3:23-26; 5:6-11; 6:1-14; 8:1-17; Romans 10:10).

BAPTISM

Baptism is administered to people who have confessed their faith in Jesus and repented toward God (Acts 2:38; 8:12-13; 18:8; Romans 10:10). Baptism is administered by immersing the believer in water. We understand this practice to be consistent with the New Testament terminology for baptism that connotes an immersion (the Greek verb *baptizo*), with the example of individuals being baptized (Mark 1:5; Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 8:36-39), and with the theological reflection on baptism as a burial and a resurrection (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

We understand baptism as the time and place when God forgives obedient believers' sins, gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit, places them into union with Christ, and adds them to his church (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-7; Galatians 3:26-28; 1 Peter 3:21).

THE CHURCH

The church universal over which Christ reigns as head is composed of all believers who have been baptized into Christ (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). When baptized believers voluntarily come together in a given community, they constitute a congregation of the universal church (1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1). The Kannapolis church of Christ is a gathering of baptized believers who have chosen to assemble and serve together.

The Kannapolis church is autonomous, overseen by a group of men that Scripture refers to synonymously as elders, shepherds, and overseers (Acts 14:23; 20:17-35; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4). It is the responsibility of this group of men to lead the congregation to be faithful to the teachings of Scripture. Decisions in areas of judgment concerning congregational policy rest on the consensus judgment of the elders. Members of the congregation serve in various ways in several ministries. A specific group of men serve as deacons with designated responsibilities within the congregation (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

WORSHIP

Members of the Kannapolis church come together at various times for different purposes. However, a centralizing practice is the church assembly. In church assemblies, members join in prayer, study of Scripture, and praise and edification through singing (1 Timothy 2:1-8; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16). Singing at the Kannapolis church is without instrumental accompaniment.

In the assembly on each Sunday, the congregation shares the Lord's Supper as a reminder of the death of Jesus, his resurrection, his continuing presence with the church, and the promise of his future coming (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:14-17; 11:23-34).

OUTREACH

The Kannapolis church takes seriously the responsibility to be involved in God's mission in the world. Support is given to preaching the gospel in the local community and in other parts of the United States and foreign countries (Matthew 28:18-20; Philippians 4:14-19).

The congregation is also active in responding to benevolent needs of members of the congregation and people in our local community. (Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 13:16; James 1:27).

PERSONAL CONDUCT

The members of the Kannapolis church are admonished to live in ways that are consistent with their identity as followers of Christ (Romans 12:1-13:14; Ephesians 4:1-6:20; Colossians 3:1-4:6). [In regard to a particular aspect of Christian conduct, see the College Church's statement on the "**Nature of Marriage.**"]