

## **The Core Ten of North Summit**

North Summit Church is a non-denominational, Christian church. Our purpose is to be a community that is committed to living out the purpose of the Church, which is to share Jesus and lead others to follow Him (Matt. 28:18-20). We believe that unity around these ten core biblical doctrines provides us with a firm foundation for our mission to make disciples of Jesus. On these core doctrines we have unity, on all others we have charity. It is our practice to never make primary points from secondary issues. We accept those areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all Christians. As a non-denominational church, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us. (Eph. 4:11-16)

- We believe that God is the Eternal Father and Creator of all things. He has always existed in three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). (Gen 1:1-3)
- We believe that God created man in His image (Gen 1:27), but man rebelled against God, introducing sin into this world, and separating people from a holy God (Rom 5:12). Ever since then, all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23).
- We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, born of a virgin, died for our rebellion (sin), and resurrected from the dead on the third day to offer restored relationship with God to all who put their trust in Him (Rom. 10:13). Salvation is found in Christ alone, through faith, as God's gracious gift to us. (Acts 4:12).
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the promised savior, and He came to usher in the kingdom of God, which is already here, but not yet revealed in its fullness (Mt. 4:17). He deserves to be the Savior and Lord of our lives (Rom. 10:9). As a result, we believe that every believer should grow in their discipleship which is to die to ourselves, forsake all, take up our cross, and follow Him (Lk. 14:27).
- We believe that God sent the Holy Spirit to empower believers to go out and be witnesses (Acts 1:8). Just as the Father sent His Son into the world, now Jesus sends us to be His ambassadors to a lost and hurting world (Jn. 20:21). The Holy Spirit gives us gifts and in Him we bear fruit in order to carry out God's will and proclaim the Good News (1 Cor. 12:11-12).
- We believe that the Bible, though written by human authors, is the inspired, infallible word of God and was given to the church to be our foundation for living rightly with God and one another. (1 Tim 3:16)

- We believe Christ commanded us to love God with all that we are and love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt. 22:37-39). Loving God and others sums up the law of God. By our love others will know that we are His disciples (Jn. 13:35).
- We believe that every believer in the world makes up a part of the body of Christ, the Church. Christ's prayer for His Church is that we would be united in Him, so that the world might know we are His. (Jn. 17:23).
- We believe that the Church has been commissioned to take the Good News to the entire world (Mt. 24:14). Every member in the body of Christ is called to play a role in building the kingdom of God; sharing Jesus with others, making disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything that Jesus taught (Mt. 28:18-20).
- We believe in the physical return of Jesus, at a time known only to God (Matt. 24:36). We believe that Jesus will rescue His Church from the wrath of God (1 Thess. 1:10). We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to eternal separation from God, and the believer to eternal life in the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21).

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## **NORTH SUMMIT POSITIONS STATEMENTS**

The following statements were crafted to bring clarity and unity around key *practices* and *beliefs* within our church:

### **Statement on Ordinances**

We believe Jesus gave the church two visible symbols, called ordinances, as reminders of His death and resurrection. These two ordinances are: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

#### **Baptism**

Baptism is for one who has put their faith in Jesus. We practice baptism by immersion as we believe Scripture teaches this method. (Col. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:4-6; Gal. 3:27)

#### **Communion**

Jesus instructed His disciples to remember His death and resurrection through the observance of the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper, or communion, is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers. We believe the elements of bread and juice of the vine symbolize the body and blood of Christ who is the final and complete sacrifice for our sins. (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

### **Statement on Church Leadership**

We believe Christ is the head of the church. We believe the local Church should be governed by a plurality of male leaders. At North Summit this leadership of both Elders and Pastors make up our Church Board. (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)

The function of Elder may be summed up under the heading of oversight. They are the doctrinal guardians of the church, accountability for the Pastoral team, and stewards of the church's capital. Elder's are the voting members of the Church Board.

The function of Pastor may be summed up under the heading of shepherding and teaching. Pastoral staff who serve on the Executive team have a dual role on the Church Board.

We believe men who have been called to a Pastoral role, and have been confirmed through character and gifting by our existing Eldership and Pastoral staff must go through an ordination process before they are publicly set aside and ordained as Pastors of North Summit. The pastors of North Summit are responsible to God for the feeding, care and ministry of the congregation.

Ordained Pastors have both the authority and the expectation to perform ministerial services such as Weddings, Funerals, Preaching/Teaching, Baptism, Communion, Shepherding, Disciple-making, Pastoral Counseling and other ministerial services as needed. (2 Tim. 2:2)

### **Statement on the Gospel**

The Gospel is the proclamation that Jesus, the Son of God, became a man. He lived a sinless life, suffered and died on the cross so that our sins would no longer keep us from a relationship with God. God raised Jesus from the dead so that those who respond by faith, in Him, could also overcome death. Jesus ascended to the right of the Father, pouring out His spirit on all people so that they may see and hear that Jesus is Christ\* and Lord\*\*. (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 1:1-6; Acts 2:30-33)

\* God's promised savior, the Messiah.

\*\* The King of all creation.

### **Statement on Eternal Security**

Concerning the issue of eternal security we find mutual agreement in the following statements:

- Everyone who believes the gospel will be saved, by grace and not by any merit of their own.
- Everyone who believes the gospel will be eternally secure.
- Everyone who does not believe the gospel will not be saved, regardless of works.
- Everyone who does not believe the gospel will not be eternally secure.

### **Statement on the Gifts of the Spirit**

The gifts of the Spirit are given to believers according to the will of God for the purpose of building up the Church. During the foundational era of the Church (i.e., the time of Christ and

the Apostles) God gave special manifestations of the overtly supernatural and miraculous gifts (e.g., tongues, healings, miracles) as “signs” that witnessed to the validity of those bearing new canonical revelation and the gospel message (c.f. II Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:3-4). Beyond the foundational era, God in His sovereignty may grant any spiritual gift and work miraculously for the benefit of His church at any time. We believe God performs miracles and answers our prayers, and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, empowers us to serve Him and do good works for the sake of the gospel.

Since some of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit can be a point of disunity in the church, we will not have a place for the gift of tongues and/or prophecy in our gatherings. Additionally, we believe that when the gift of tongues and prophecy are used, there are rules for their use: 1. If someone speaks in a tongue, it will be one at a time. (1 Corinthians 14:27, 33, 40) 2. There must be an interpreter. (1 Corinthians 14:28) 3. There must be one who discerns whether it comes from God. (1 John 4:1) 4. If it is a prayer language, there is a place to pray. (Matthew 6:6) 5. All the gifts must be used to edify the church, not the individual. (1 Corinthians 14:4-5, 26) 6. No one has all the gifts, but the church is to be a body. (1 Corinthians 12:27-30) 7. For those who believe prophecy is a gift active today, then the rules of a prophet apply. (Deut. 18:20-22)

### **Statement on Marriage**

Biblical marriage consists only of a faithful, heterosexual union between one genetic male and one genetic female, and biblical marriage is the only legitimate and acceptable context for a sexual relationship. (Gen. 2:18-25; Eph 5:32-33)

### **Statement on Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps. 139:13-16)

### **Statement on Creation**

The existence and nature of the creation is due to the direct miraculous power of God. The origin of the universe, the origin of life, the origin of kinds of living things, and the origin of humans cannot be explained adequately apart from reference to a Creator. A proper understanding of science does not require that all phenomena in nature must be explained solely by reference to physical events, laws and chance. The Bible is not a science book but neither is it unclear that all creation is of, for and by God. (Gen. 1 & 2; Rom. 1:18-23; John 1:1)