

Calvary Christian Academy Student/Parent Handbook 2020/2021

Philosophy of Education:

Purpose

In a continued effort to provide our church family and community a well-balanced, family-oriented ministry, the Calvary Christian Academy (CCA) was created. Its ministry is to provide a vital tool for our families to promote the cause of Christ during the education process. CCA is Bible-based so as to develop students spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially, and to make their lives distinctively Christian.

Mission Statement

Calvary Christian Academy's (CCA) mission is to impact and train students with the absolute truth of the Word of God. CCA provides a developmentally-appropriate place for your child to cultivate their unique God given abilities by providing a non-shifting foundation of Biblical values alongside of excellent scholastic education. We believe that Christian education begins at salvation; therefore, CCA is for truly-born again families and/or children. CCA is committed to helping parents fulfill God's command to "train up" their children to become Godly men and women, dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ, who will strive to serve Him in every area of their lives.

Doctrinal Position

CCA in all aspects holds true to the Statement of Faith adopted and followed by Calvary Baptist Church. Please see the attached Statement of Faith in its entirety, at Appendix I.

Admission Policy:

Selective Enrollment – Enrollment to CCA should be considered a privilege and not a right. Children will be admitted through an interview process. One of the following criteria for enrollment must be met in order to receive an interview:

1. Family is an active member of Calvary Baptist Church and is willing to sign in agreement with the Student/Parent Handbook.
2. Family is an active participant in their own Church (which is substantiated by their Church's Pastor) and is willing to sign in agreement with the Student/Parent Handbook, acknowledging that Calvary Baptist Church's Statement of Faith (see Appendix I) is the foundation of all educational instruction.
3. The Child is an active part of the youth ministries at Calvary Baptist Church, showing a true heart for the Lord Jesus Christ and demonstrated by their fruits and is willing to sign in agreement with Calvary Baptist Church's Statement of Faith (see Appendix I) as well as the Student/Parent Handbook.

Enrollment Age Requirement:

First year Kindergarten students must turn 4 years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year to be eligible for enrollment. Second year Kindergarten students must turn 5 years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year to be eligible for enrollment.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

CCA does not discriminate against applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

Curriculum:

All curriculum will be in the King James or New King James Versions. Core curriculum utilized will be ABeka and ACSI, or other supplementary curriculum recommended by the Teacher and approved by the School Board.

Teachers/Volunteers:

All paid employees will be properly qualified, which will be verified by the School Board through the application and resume process.

All paid employees and regular volunteers must sign in agreement with the Employee/Volunteer Handbook, and must go through Calvary Baptist Church's Child Protection Training as well as submit to a Central Registry Check and Criminal Background Check.

Tuition Policy:

Annual tuition is to be paid over 12 monthly installments (August – July). Monthly tuition payments are due by the 15th of each month. In the event that the 15th falls on a weekend, payment is due on or by the following Monday. Tuition payments set up through automatic monthly account withdrawals will receive a 4% discount.

A late fee of \$10 will be assessed for all payments received between the 16th and 25th of the month. After the 25th, the late fee will increase to \$25. If a parent determines to set up the automatic monthly account withdrawals within 30 days, as a result of a late fee, the late fee will be removed from the account.

In the event that an account falls two months behind, the child's enrollment may be cancelled until such a time as all payments and late fees are caught back up to date.

Any Non-Sufficient Fund or Returned Check charges incurred by CCA on behalf of a tuition check not clearing will be passed on to the parent.

All students will be given a school polo at the start of each year, with 50% of the cost being covered by CCA and the other 50% being included with the tuition. In the event that the polo is lost or destroyed, 100% of the replacement cost will be that of the student. Please note that the polo will need to be replaced as soon as possible as the polo is required for various event participation, as noted below under “Dress Code”.

See the current rates schedule in detail, in Appendix II.

School Schedule:

The formal school calendar will be posted on CCA’s website each year; however, the school year will typically run from September through May, with all major holidays being observed.

Classes will start at 8:30am and end at 2:45pm, Monday through Thursday, with classes on the first Friday of every month beginning in November and ending in April.

Electronic Devices: All electronic devices e.g. cellphones, iPads, etc., must be put away when entering the building and not taken out until exiting the building.

Student Lunches:

Children are responsible for bringing their own sack lunch each day as well as a healthy mid-morning snack unless C.C.A. continues to qualify for the “free lunch” program.

Snow Days:

All school closings will be posted no later than 6:30am to WNEM TV5, through “Remind” and other sources as deemed appropriate.

Student Visitors:

Students will not be allowed to bring a visitor into the classroom as a guest for the day without making special arrangements in advance. The arrangements must be made with the Primary Teacher first, and then if necessary, the Administrator and/or School Board.

Student Insurance:

CCA does not provide student accident insurance for injuries that take place during school hours or school activities. CCA is not required to provide this type of insurance and chooses not to do so in order to keep tuition and fees as low as possible. Student insurance may be purchased from a number of companies by individual families who desire this type of coverage.

School Sickness Policy:

When you keep your child at home at the first sign of a communicable disease, you are protecting your sick child from other health problems. You are also protecting other children, parents, and staff from exposure to the disease. If your child becomes ill with a communicable disease, notify your child's teacher immediately. It is in the best interest of your child's well-being to keep them home if they're in an infectious state.

It is the policy of CCA that your child be without a fever, vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. If an antibiotic is prescribed, your child may return to school after they have been on the antibiotic for 24 hours.

Administration of Medication:

A permission slip from parents or guardians and a signed physician's order (or properly labeled prescription bottle), indicating the prescription drug name, dose, time, method of administration and duration (length of time) for medication to be dispensed must be on file in CCA's office. It is also recommended that the possible side effects of a medication be indicated on the permission slip. Medications must be brought to the CCA in their original labeled containers, and will be kept in a locked and secure area.

Absences/Tardies:

Each absence will be considered excused or unexcused. An excused absence is an absence due to a personal illness, serious illness in the family, death in the family or medical appointment. All other absences are unexcused. Parents will be notified after the 5th unexcused absence. We would like to remind parents that all State Truancy requirements are adhered to at CCA.

If excessive absences are due to medical reasons, the Teacher may request a doctor's excuse for each absence in excess of the 5th. If a student has more than 15 absences of any kind, CCA reserves the right to terminate enrollment or refrain from passing the student to the next grade.

A tardy is the result of the child not being in their respective class, ready to start, after the official start time. Three tardies will result in one absence.

It is always the responsibility of the student to get his/her make-up assignments and to complete them in the time frame agreed upon with their teacher.

Dress Code:

All student's clothing must look freshly laundered and pressed, presenting a neat appearance at all times. No holes, graphics or wording are allowed on clothing.

Boys: Dress pants and collared shirts are required and all shirts must be tucked in. If belt loops are present, belts must be worn by all boys 1st grade and higher.

Girls: Skirts, jumpers or dress pants with a collared shirt. Skirts, jumpers and dresses must not reach more than 2 inches above the knee and must be accompanied by leggings or tights at all times. Leggings alone are never allowed and must be accompanied by a dress or a skirt. Dresses may be sleeveless but must be accompanied by a sweater. Collared shirts must be tucked in. If belt loops are present, belts must be worn by all girls 1st grade or higher.

In warmer weather: Uniform or dress shorts may be worn when the temperature is forecasted to reach 70 degrees or higher. Shorts must not reach higher than 2 inches above the knee.

Thursday/Friday Casual Days: Students are allowed to wear jeans and a collared shirt or their CCA t-shirt on Thursdays and Fridays.

In an effort to support school spirit, students are asked to wear their **black school polo** with the appropriate pants and/or skirts to all school performances, events, and/or fieldtrips.

In the event that the dress code is violated, parents will be notified through a dress code violation form to inform them of the violation. In the event of a second violation, parents will be called to bring the student appropriate clothing or pick up the child and return in dress code.

Discipline Policy:

The goal of CCA is to have teachers, staff and students conduct their lives in a Biblical and God-honoring way to the best of their ability. Such conduct will provide the best environment to teach students to live moral, God-honoring lives, as well as maintain the ability to attain the highest academic goals.

This policy will encourage resolving any student misbehavior at the lowest level—that being between the Teacher, student and parent(s). Misconduct of a more serious nature, however, will require the discipline to be handled at a higher administrative level. Whether the misconduct is of a minor or serious nature, the objective will be to help the student understand the heart issue behind the misbehavior and the Biblical standards that are not being met. This part of the education should be viewed as vital as any academic subject taught at CCA.

Ideally, parents and CCA staff should function as a team in the best interest of the student (s) involved in any misbehavior, with the objective being repentance and seeking forgiveness if necessary. The handling of discipline should be an opportunity to learn love and mercy as well as justice.

However, while parents should be involved and supportive, final determination of discipline to be accessed will be the responsibility of CCA.

The following list, while not all inclusive, will help as guidelines regarding “minor” and serious categories.

Minor Offences

Dress Code Violations

Tardy/Late

Disruptive/Disrespectful Behavior

Serious Categories

Fighting/Bullying

Cheating

Direct Disobedience

Unauthorized Use of Electronic Devices

Inappropriate/Foul Language

Unauthorized Entrance to CCA/Church Properties

Damaging/Defacing CCA/Church Properties

See the current School Rules and Consequences listing in Appendix III.

Inspection and Search:

CCA reserves the right to conduct searches at any time, with or without notice, of employees, volunteers, students, their belongings or CCA property, if in CCA's sole discretion; it believes there is cause to do so. This search may include, but is not limited to, an inspection of the following: boxes, lockers, tool chests, purses, briefcases, bags, lunch boxes, personal computer files, desks, file and other cabinets, packages, or vehicles on school property. In addition, CCA reserves the right to search CCA property used by the employee, volunteers or students such as computers, cell phones, tablets, voicemail, text messages, emails and internet files.

Illegal or unauthorized items (including but not limited to weapons, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, inappropriate communications and sexually implicit or explicit images) will be taken into custody and may be turned over to law enforcement personnel. Any employee who refuses to submit to a search may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, termination of employment.

Non-Smoking Facility:

CCA maintains a non-smoking policy on all of its premises including inside any CCA buildings or on the grounds (including parking lots).

Homework:

Homework is an extension of the Teacher's efforts in the classroom. It serves two basic purposes:

1. Reinforcement and development of a concept taught in the classroom.
2. Development of responsibility and follow-through on the part of the student.

Homework will generally not be assigned for Wednesday night.

Parent Involvement:

Parents are expected to commit to being an active participant in their child's education. This include parents ensuring that their children are at school on time every day, and that they are properly and timely completing their homework assignments.

Parental concerns regarding individual students are to be directed to the Primary Teacher. If concerns cannot be addressed briefly, the teachers are willing to set up a conference to provide their undivided attention. CCA's Administrator is available to address concerns that need further review, outside of a

student's particular class experience, only after the Primary Teacher has been given the opportunity to rectify the problem. Concerns, comments or communications from one custodial parent may be shared with the other joint custodial parent.

Grading Policy:

There will be four marking periods in a year, with Parent-Teacher conferences being held after the first marking period is complete. Parents are encouraged to request additional conferences any time they think it is necessary. Teachers welcome these opportunities and are eager to help the students succeed.

The grading scale is as follows:

98%-100%	A+	78%-79%	C+
92%-97%	A	72%-77%	C
90%-91%	A-	70%-71%	C-
88%-89%	B+	68%-69%	D+
82%-87%	B	62%-67%	D
80%-81%	B-	60%-61%	D-
		59% or Below	Failing

*All A's and B's will result in the student being on CCA's honor Roll.

Student Placement & Advancement:

In order to determine the appropriate grade level for incoming students, placement testing will be administered prior to the student starting at CCA. For students transferring from another School/Academy, transcripts from that School/Academy will be accepted in lieu of the testing; however, CCA reserves the right to administer the testing at a later date if concerns regarding original placement come to light based on the student's progress in the classroom.

It is important to note that the curriculum utilized by CCA is an advanced curriculum and it is the desire of the CCA staff that all students succeed in the program. Placing or advancing a child at or to a grade level above their current ability is not wise, and is only setting up the child for failure. Therefore, CCA will make all attempts to ensure that placements and advancements are at a mutually agreeable level for both the parents and CCA staff, but final decisions will be that of CCA's Administrator.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plenary inspired and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinions shall be tried (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet. 1:9-21).

II. THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Ex. 20:2,3; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11).

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in his relation to the unbelieving world, he restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witness, sanctifies and helps the believer (John 14:16, 17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; John 16:8; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Eph. 1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; rom. 8:14,16,26,27).

IV. THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Matt. 4:11; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10).

V. CREATION

We believe the biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels, and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race (Gen.1,2; Col. 1:16, 17; John 1:3). We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24 –hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories

of origin.

VI. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 3:23; 3:9-12; 5:12,19; 1:18,32).

VII. THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4).

VIII. SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death, He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith Jonah 2:9; Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24,25; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 2:14-17; Isa. 53; 4-7; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 2:24).

IX. RESURRECTION AND PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us (Matt. 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; 5:9,10).

X. GRACE AND THE NEW BIRTH

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the

free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life (John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; I John 5:1; Acts 16:20-33; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1,5; Col. 2:13; John 3:8).

XI. JUSTIFICATION

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood (Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 5:1,9; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9).

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XII. SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting a part of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return (Heb. 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; II Cor. 3:18; I Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:25-27; I Thess. 4:3,4; 5:23,24; I John 3:2; Jude 24,25; Rev. 22:11).

XIII. THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6; John 10:28,29; Rom. 8:35-39; Jude 1).

XIV. THE CHURCH

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation, that on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final (I Cor. 12:12,13; Eph. 1:22,23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23; Col. 1:18; Acts 15:13-18).

XV. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is baptism first and then the Lord's Supper, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers (Acts 8:36,38,39; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; I Cor. 11:23-28; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41,42).

XVI. SEPARATION

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy (I Cor. 6:14-7:1; I Thess. 1:9,10; I Tim. 6:3-5; Rom. 16,17; II John 9-11).

XVII. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of kings (Rom. 13:1-7; II Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:21,22; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19,20; Dan. 3:17,18; Acts 23:5).

XVIII. ISRAEL

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, and that she will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 11:1-32; Ezek. 37). We reject Replacement Theology (the church has replaced Israel as the only covenanted people) as unscriptural.

XIX. RAPTURE AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation (I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42-44, 51-54; Phil. 3:20, 21; Rev. 3:10).

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom (Dan. 9:25-17; Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isa. 9:6,7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29,30; Rev. 20:1-4,6).

XX. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire (Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17,18; I John 5:19; Rom. 7:6; 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34-41; John 8:21; Rev. 20:14,15).

XXI. HUMAN SEXUALITY

1. Sex is a wonderful gift from God given exclusively to a husband and his wife. It is an expression of their deep and intimate and unconditional love for each other. (Gen. 4:1; I Cor. 7:1-5; Heb. 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4) We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.
2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)
3. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5,12)

XXII. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

The Holy relationship between a husband and his wife was instituted by God Himself in the Garden of Eden. Marriage is a divine institution which is celebrated and elevated throughout Scripture. (Gen. 2:24; Heb. 13:4) We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor, deacons, deaconess, (this principle applies to both potential office holders and his/her spouse and it matters not whether the divorce took place before or after one's salvation.). (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6)

XXIII. ABORTION

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

XXIV. LAWSUITS

Christ said that the world would know we are His disciples by our love for each other. God expects brothers and sisters in Christ to treat each other the same way that Christ treats the church. (John 13:35; Eph. 5:1,2) We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

XXV. GIVING

The Apostle Paul asks the Christians in Corinth the following question, "What do you have that has not been received?" Everything we have has been given to us by our gracious and good God and we are stewards of these things. (I Cor. 4:2,7) We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17)

XXVI. LIFESTYLE STANDARD ISSUES

We have the privilege of representing Christ in all places and at all times. We believe Christians are responsible to maintain a lifestyle which brings glory to God and exhibits modesty to man.

We believe this two-fold principle funnels down to very practical areas of life, such as the Christian's speech, dress, mannerisms, and activities. We believe the above standard applies to every church member, both at and away from the church, and that it applies to all people within the church building(s) and on its grounds.

(I Cor. 10:31; Phil. 4:5; Eph. 4:29)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all employees of the church should be members of the church and those that serve as volunteers, must abide by and agree to this Statement of Faith and conduct themselves accordingly.

XXVII ASSOCIATIONS

Who and what we associate with is a very significant thing. The wise man Solomon teaches us that we become like those whom we "walk with." (Prov. 13:20) We believe Christians are responsible to maintain those associations only which bring glory to God and are consistent with the principles set forth in God's Word, the Bible. (Josh. 23; II Cor. 6:11-18; Gal. 1:6-9; II John 7-11)

XXVIII EUTHANASIA

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)

XXIX LIFESTYLE AND STANDARD ISSUES

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all employees of the church should be members of the church and those that serve as volunteers, must abide by and agree to this Statement of Faith and conduct themselves accordingly.