

STANDARDS FOR LEADERSHIP: PASTORS, STAFF & OFFICERS

Leadership Affirmation of Faith:

We, the Session of FPCW, acknowledge that the purpose of Wenatchee First Presbyterian Church is to glorify God by providing ministry of the highest quality within a committed Christian environment that reaches out to God's world.

For the purpose of encouraging God's family to relate all they learn of the Christian faith to every part of life, we provide a spiritual community & resources for continued growth into mature discipleship for the FPCW family's personal relationships with Jesus Christ. Achieving these goals is not automatic, but takes Christ-centered and Biblically-based leadership. The task of godly leadership requires a clear theological strength if we are to move out as an edified community of faith into our jobs and the Wenatchee Valley with Biblically informed interest in local and world issues for the betterment of society.

We want to do this as FPCW in such a way that we witness without apology to Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and to the love and authority of God's Word. To insure that this happens, Session affirms the need for recruitment of future pastors, elders, deacons & staff whose personal relationship with Christ is basic to their lives, and who are enthusiastic about sharing their faith and themselves with each other and the world in ministry that glorifies God according to His own declared expectations revealed in the Bible.

The Session of FPCW strongly believes it is essential for all its future ordained and staff leadership to be committed to the authority of Scripture and to the essential elements of the Christian faith. Therefore, all future pastors, elders, deacons, and staff of FPCW will declare themselves before assuming leadership, as well as annually, to believe the following:

- That the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God written, a divine, supernatural revelation. Pastors, elders, deacons & staff will believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the original writings of the Scriptures, and that, as thus given, they were wholly without error of any kind and are thereby the only totally trustworthy rule for faith and obedience for the Christian life;
- In one Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (I Peter 1:2; Matthew 28:19). Pastors, elders, deacons & staff shall believe that the Persons of the Godhead are co-equal in power and glory, identical in their essential nature, attributes, and perfections and that they are co-eternal (Genesis 1:2; John 17:5). In His essential nature God is spirit as opposed to material (John 4:24); as to His essential attributes God is absolutely holy, embracing the sum of all moral perfections (I Peter 1:16); as to His essential character, God is love (I John 4:16; John 3:16);
- That Jesus Christ, "being the eternal Son of God, became man" (Hebrews 2:16; John 1:14; Luke 1:35), and that He continues to be fully God & fully man, one glorified Person in two natures forever (John 1:14; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 13:8);

- That Jesus died upon the cross a vicarious substitutionary death, thereby making atonement for the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). Pastors, elders, deacons & staff shall believe that He is the only Redeemer apart from Whom there is no salvation (Acts 4:12; Jn 14:6); that His atonement is sufficient for the sins of all the world (Heb. 7:25; I Jn 2:2), & efficient for all who believe (Jn 3:16, 36; Is 45:22); & justification is by grace through faith alone in Jesus only (Romans 3:21-28).
- That Jesus bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended into Heaven, that there in His state of glorification He is now the High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate for all believers (I Cor. 15:20; Lk 24; Acts 1:3; Heb. 7:25, 4:15, 2:17; I John 2:1).

Even these representative declarations of historic Christian faith do not define in detail what a Pastor, elder, deacon or staff member of FPCW might believe in many important areas of doctrine and theology.

They do, however, affirm our doctrinal and ministerial unity on several key essential elements of the faith necessary to be called into FPCW leadership. We also believe other key tenets of the faith naturally would fall in line such as, the work of the Holy Spirit, the nature of God's church and the sacraments. The essentials stated above, however, are the only ones we focus on here and now.

We wish to say that as far as our wider congregational membership is concerned, in that we are a loving leadership seeking to build evangelical disciples from many denominations who have joined us, we do celebrate not only our unity in Jesus Christ but also our freedom to disagree, and to continue grappling in the many non-essential elements of our faith.

On the aforementioned central non-negotiable tenets of the Christian faith, we do, however, require affirmation from all FPCW ordained and staff leadership.

We are confident our one true triune God will be most pleased, most honored and most praised as we proceed forward in ministry according to His definitions of faith and ministry divinely revealed in the holy Scriptures.

In this way, may we receive God's blessing in both FPCW leadership and congregation and so grow to His greater glory.