

Statements of Faith and practice ¹

Section 1: What We Believe

The Strathalbyn Church of Christ is orthodox in faith, and evangelical in outlook.

The following fundamentals are strictly held:

1. We believe that The Lord our God, the Lord is one, that we are to have no other god but The Lord God alone, and that we are to Love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.²
2. We believe that all creation is made by God and that He is ruler over all authorities and powers and creation and all things therein for His Glory to be displayed.³
3. We believe the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and wholly trustworthy to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and for teaching, correcting, reproof and for training in righteousness.⁴ We believe that they are of supreme and final authority in matters of faith and eternity.
4. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ was uniquely born of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. We believe that He is true God and true man inseparably joined in one person for ever. We believe that Jesus Christ is Immanuel (God is with us).⁵
6. We believe that we are to obey Jesus' command to Love one another just as He has loved us.⁶
7. We believe in the existence and activity of the devil and the universality and heinousness of sin in our lives.⁷ We believe that all mankind has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.⁸
8. We believe that God so loves us all that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.⁹

9. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ himself bore our sins in His body on the cross that we might die to sin and live to righteousness and therefore, all who repent of their sins and believe in Him are justified before God on account of this.¹⁰ We believe that Jesus Christ rescued us from the guilt, penalty and power of sin through his sacrificial death, as our representative and substitute.
10. We believe that our salvation is by grace through faith alone. We believe that all who repent and receive Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit and become joint-heirs of the Father with Jesus Christ.
11. We believe in the physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, His ascension into Heaven, and in His presence there for us, as our High Priest and Advocate.¹¹
12. We believe in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather His elect, to manifest His Kingdom in power and glory, and to judge the world in righteousness.¹²
13. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.¹³
14. We believe in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers and enables us to produce fruits of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control just as Jesus Christ showed to us.¹⁴
15. We believe that all men and women were created by God in His own image to worship Him and as created beings man cannot fully know the mind of God.¹⁵
16. We believe that marriage was instituted by God whereby a biological man and a biological woman are joined together in lifelong commitment to faithful companionship. We believe that Biblical marriage is the only scriptural and acceptable context for sexual intimacy.¹⁶
17. We believe that the Church is the company of all who have been born again through faith in Jesus Christ and who have been formed by His Spirit into one body, of whom He alone is the Head.¹⁷ In serving Christ, this includes serving in the ministry of our church, in our families and in our community.

18. We believe that we are all commissioned to go into all the world and proclaim the good news that salvation is at hand.¹⁸

19. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted three essential marks of a genuine church, namely Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Prayer.¹⁹

Section 2: Our practices ²⁰

1. Believer's baptism by immersion

We teach that believers in Jesus Christ who are able to speak of their own confession of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives will seek to be baptised by immersion in water.²¹ We teach that this is an outward expression of their confession of faith and their inner journey of continuing discipleship.²²

2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a time during every congregational worship service when we explicitly remember the Lord Jesus Christ's death for us, and we do this in obedience until He comes again.²³ Partaking of the communion emblems during the Lord's Supper is open to all who confess Jesus Christ is Lord, being mindful that we are to take these emblems in a worthy manner.

Section 3: Purpose and Objects ²⁴

1. To be an Evangelical Christian Church in Strathalbyn.
2. To glorify God through the fostering of Biblical understanding and Christian faith.
3. To proclaim and promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. To teach all things that God has commanded according to the infallible Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament.
5. To teach and encourage holy living and Christian maturity
6. To demonstrate Christian service and giving.

¹ Adopted at Board meeting 19 Aug 2021 and affirmed at AGM, 3 Oct 2021.

² Mark 12:29

³ Isaiah 6:3

⁴ 2 Timothy 3:15-16

⁵ Isaiah 7: 14

⁶ John 14:34

⁷ 1 Peter 5: 8-9, Rom 3:9-18.

⁸ Rom 3:23-26

⁹ John 3: 16

¹⁰ Rom 3:21-26; 2 Cor 5:14, 21; Gal 2: 20; 1 Peter 2: 24

¹¹ Jn 20:24-28; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor 15:3-8, 12-20; Heb 4:14-16; 10:12; 1 Jn 2:1.

¹² Ps 9:8; Matt 24:27, 31; Acts 1:11; 1 Thes 4:13-18; 2 Thes 2:8

¹³ 1 Cor 15:44; Phil 3:21; Lk 24:39; 1 Pet 1:3-4; Mt 5:30; 10:28; 25:41, 46; Jn 5:29.

¹⁴ 1 Cor 3:16; Eph 2:8-10; Romans 8: 14-17

¹⁵ Gen 1:27; 9:6, Eccles 12:13, 1 Corinthians 2:11

¹⁶ Gen 2:20-24; Mat 19:4-6; Rom 7:2; 1 Thes 4:1-8; Heb 13:4.

¹⁷ Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18; 1 Pet 1:3.

¹⁸ Mat 28:18-20; Lk 24:47; Jn 20:21.

¹⁹ Rom 6:3-7; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Matt 6: 5-15; Matt 26: 36-41; Luke 18:1

²⁰ As an autonomous member of Churches of Christ SA-NT our practices reflect the traditions shared with other Churches of Christ.

²¹ Mark 1:10; Acts 8:36-39.

²² Gal 3:26-27.

²³ 1 Cor 11:23-32.

²⁴ Copied from SCOC constitution