



Declaration of Faith and Order - 27 July 1849

Excerpt by Pastor Greg Anderson
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There are two principles, which we all recognize: the one is, our duty to confess Jesus Christ and to do what we can to win men to the faith of the Gospel; the other is, our duty not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but by a union with Christian Brethren, to maintain the Ordinances of Divine Worship, and proclaim to the world our attachment to the truth as it is in Jesus. Holding these two principles we find ourselves in this Colony from different countries, and from different Churches. It is a consequence of this, that we do not entertain the same views on many points of Church Order and Government, and that we have not looked at all points of doctrine exactly in the same way. Ought we on this account to have remained separate from one another avoiding a public and determinate fellowship? To have done so would, we believe, have been wrong. We differ in small matters, we agree in great realities. We trust that we are one in Christ Jesus. We all love Him who died for us. We all acknowledge our obligation, as naming the name of Christ, to depart from iniquity. On the fact of this great unity, our Union as a Church is based, Believing that we have been individually received by Christ, we joyfully receive one another, and pray that our doing so may be to the glory of God, while at the same time, we express our resolution in dependence on Divine Grace, whereto we have already attained, to walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing.

- We receive the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as indeed the word of God. These Scriptures we receive as the only infallible rule both of faith and practice.
- We believe the living and true God, is revealed in the Scriptures, all one only God, in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
- We believe, that God made the first man, Adam, upright in his own image, and after his own likeness, and that Adam being seduced by Satan, fell from his holy estate, and became subject to death, and all the curse of sin.
- We believe, that God, not willing that men should perish, made promise to our first parents of a Deliverer.
- We believe, that the Son of God - the second person in the Trinity - the Word who from eternity was with God, and was God - died upon the Cross, as a propitiatory sacrifice, whereby was declared the righteousness of God, for the remission of sins, so that he might be just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus.
- We believe, that while God has provided an everlasting righteousness, which is freely offered unto all men, yet that all men would reject, if God did not send forth the Holy Spirit, to convince the world of sin.
- We believe, also, that by the operation of the same Divine Spirit, the work of grace is carried on in the soul of the believer, so that his salvation from the beginning to the end is entirely from God.
- We believe, that Christ having risen from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high. But he will so come in like manner, as he went into heaven.
- We believe, that there will be a general resurrection and judgment, the consequences of which will be that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.