



The Churches of Faith Inc. (COF)

Stafford, Virginia 22554

Apostle Frank R. Lacey, Presiding Prelate

The Churches of Faith International Profile

Pastors, Churches and Ministries which have the desire and confidence to exist under the direction and Leadership of The Churches of Faith Inc. will become an entity of this Organization; The leadership will act as their covering and speak into the lives of the Pastor and/or church, or Ministry.

The Churches of Faith Mission Statement

Because man was created to glorify God. Everything we do should be “Godhead”, but this earthly existence has caused men and women to neglect their main obligation and use their energy in pursuit of things and events, which can only lead to destruction.

The Churches of Faith Inc. has a mission to reach all nations. We will do this by turning men, women and children back toward God by the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as given in the Great Commission of our risen Lord and Savior in Matthew 28: 19-20.

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”

Rev. 2:10

We intend to fulfill this mission by launching a strong evangelistic outreach to the lost, both domestic and abroad.

We will edify the body of Christ by aiding pastors in preparing their congregations and ministries for the work of the ministry. We offer an array of ministry helps to include ministers, elders, deacons and deaconess training and bible teaching seminars and workshops addressing teachers training, youth retreats, and marriage/singles seminar and conferences.

The Churches of Faith Inc. also set forth as its mission to prepare ministers for the work of the ministry through catechism, examination, licensing, and ordination. We will also serve to plant churches both domestically and internationally, as well as place trained ministers in these churches to assure success.

It is also the Heart felt desire of The Churches of Faith to provide information and help to churches in starting their own Church based day-care and Christian Schools. We will provide an avenue for the gifted and talented artists, poets, and writers to have their materials published and copyrighted.

The Churches of Faith Doctrine

We believe there is only one God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14, John 1:1). In the New Testament, time and time again we see the expression of God the Father, Jesus the Son of God and God the Holy Spirit.

- God as Father, Jesus as Son and the Holy Spirit are in complete unity.
- All are a part of creation and vital to the salvation of the cosmos with specific functions.
- God as Father is the master architect of the entire plan of creation.
- Jesus is the expression of God's bridge between Himself and man (the Chief Minister).
- The Holy Spirit is the Revealer of Truth and serves as a down payment for salvation for eternity (the gift).

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- God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God with the Holy Spirit as the Divine Interpreter. They are equal in purpose, equal in power, and equal in authority; completely and totally unified.
- Therefore, we conclude that there is one God manifest in three persons.

We Believe in Jesus Christ

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ was begotten, not created, very God of very God, truly God, truly Man. He was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died a vicarious and atoning death for the sins of the world, resurrected bodily for our justification, and now reigns in glory until all things be put under His feet. (1 Timothy 3:16)

There are six things essential to our beliefs as a Christian:

- Jesus was both 100% God and 100% human. God was His Father, and Mary was his mother.
- Mary was a virgin as the scripture records. In order for her to conceive it had to be supernatural: beyond natural. This is no different than Abraham and Sarah believing God that they could have children after their time of life had passed.
- Jesus lived His life without sin. If He sinned in any way His blood would not have qualified to be poured on the mercy seat in heaven. The scripture says that there can be no remission of sin without the shedding of blood.
- Jesus' death was for the sins of the world. My sin and your sin caused His death.
- Jesus was raised from the dead. This signified His supreme Lordship over death. Death was the natural result of our separation from God through sin. Physical death was a shadow of spiritual death.
- Jesus now reigns as the immortal, invisible King who will one day establish His rule on earth at the appointed time.

We Believe in the Sanctity of Human 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.

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We believe that man was made in the image of God and is the crown of creation. He is now, by reason of the fall, spiritually depraved and alienated from his Creator. Apart

from god's grace, he has no ability to attain to his high calling. (Psalm 8, Ephesians 2: 8 - 9).

- Man is created in the image of God. Man is spirit, he has a soul (mind, will, emotions) and lives in a body (house or shell for the spirit).
- Man does not come from an animal or one cell amoeba.
- Man is not inherently good by nature; because of Adam and Eve's disobedience, we are alienated from God and can never measure up to God's standard of right standing with Him.
- This alienation is called "sin". Sin means to miss or not come up to the established standard.
- We can never satisfy the established standard without intervention from God. No amount of good deeds on our part could satisfy His requirements to be just in His eyes.

We Believe in Justification by Faith

We believe that justification is by grace through faith in our Lord's sacrifice on Calvary. (Romans 3:21 - 24). The soul that sins shall surely die. This death is a spiritual death first and a natural death second.

- This alienation from God because of sin can only be corrected by grace through faith in what Jesus did in His death, burial and resurrection.
- Jesus Christ, through His death, satisfied the requirement, or standards, established by God. He becomes our substitution.
- God's entire wrath against disobedience (sin) was taken out on Jesus on the cross. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

We Believe in Baptism

We believe that all of God's people are to be buried with our Lord Jesus Christ in the waters of baptism, subsequent to conversion. (Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:4)

- Baptism is a command. Everyone who confesses Christ should be baptized.
- Baptism comes from the word "baptize" which means to immerse.
- Baptism represents a burial of the old way of life and mindset.

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- Baptism is not a prerequisite to salvation.
- Covenant Church does not baptize infants.
- Baptism is to be participated in when the concept it represents can be fully understood by the participant.
- We baptize in the name of Jesus Christ in accordance with the scriptural record.
- Jesus was baptized as a way of identifying with us as sinners.

We Believe in the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in all believers, conforming them to the image of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 8:16 - 17)

- The Holy Spirit sanctifies – sets us apart to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives.
- The Holy Spirit preserves – He keeps us until the day that Christ returns.
- The Holy Spirit comes within you when you accept Christ into your heart.
- The scriptures identify Him as “the one called alongside to help provide comfort, revelation regarding the will of God and teaching”.

We Believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an Endowment of Power

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an endowment of power, subsequent to conversion, given by God to anoint the believer for sanctification and evangelism. It is our understanding that the supernatural charisma of the Holy Spirit is active within the Body of Christ until the coming of the Lord. Furthermore, we believe the development of the charismatic gifts ought to be encouraged under the guidance of local church authorities. (Acts 8:14-17, Acts 19:1-2, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a subsequent experience to salvation.
- Evidence of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated by speaking in tongues and boldness as recorded in the book of Acts.
- The Holy Spirit within produces fruit for an internal work.
- The Holy Spirit upon us produces power for external work.
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a requirement of Salvation.
- We encourage you to ask Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

We Believe in the Holy Scriptures

We believe in the absolute inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, given by the Holy Spirit without error, as He moved upon holy men of old. Furthermore, we believe that the

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Church has no authority to establish doctrine or practice contrary to these same Scriptures, which were subsequently accepted as canon by the early Christian Church. (2 Timothy 3:16)

The Holy Bible is the word of God, written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

- All that we believe has its basis in the entirety of the scripture and the absolute truths that it contains. Absolutes are principles that stand alone.
- The Holy Scripture is our highest authority for establishing doctrine, reproof, instructing, convicting of sin, correction of error, and training in righteousness.
- The canon of scripture was established prior to the universal church's fragmentation into denominations. At the same time the scriptures were written, the universal church was still an organic body, not an institutional one.

We Believe in the Priesthood of the Believer

We believe in the priesthood of the believer. That is to say, all people born of God have equal status before, and direct access to, their Lord. (1 Peter 2:5)

- You can have relationship with God without having a human mediator.
- Jesus is our mediator to God.
- We all have equal status and access to God through Jesus Christ.
- We have a responsibility as priests to minister to those who don't have a relationship with the Lord and to fellow believers.

We Believe in the Equipping of the Saints for the Work of the Ministry

We believe that the calling of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher are functional within the Body of Christ until the Lord's return. Furthermore, these ministries are gifts to the Church for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, that the Body of Christ will be edified. (Ephesians 4:11-16). We believe that the ministry gifts listed in Ephesians 4 are still in operation today (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher).

- The role of these gifts is the equipping of the believers for the work of the ministry.
- These gifts are expressed within the context of a local community of believers.
- We need to exercise balance and sensitivity in allowing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in our lives.

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- Gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be manifest decently and in order in a church service under the leading of the ministry oversight.

***Please sign and date.*

Your Signature

Date

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