

CREED OF FAITH

I. WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. THE TRINITY OF GOD - We believe in the one eternal God that was, that is and is to come, infinitely sovereign of the Universe, established by the Holy Word of God, Jehovah (Father), Jesus (Son), and Holy Spirit (Counselor). These three are in co-existence of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in Divine Unity, Divine Nature and Essence. The doctrine of the Trinity (although does not appear in scripture) expresses that inside the being and the activities of the Unique God there are three distinct entities: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Gen.1:26, Matt. 28:19, John 14:26,15:26-27, 1 Pet. 1:2, Gal. 4:4-6; 1 Jn.5:7-9)

2. JESUS CHRIST - We believe in Jesus Christ as the second person in the Trinity. He is eternally as one with the Father, and they were united as one person; fully God, fully man, and the God of man. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven having conquered death through the perfect and sinless human sacrifice of His own life and now intercedes for us. (Matt.1:20-25, 16:15-16, Lk.1:26-35, Acts 2:22-36, Rom.8:3-4,32-34, Gal. 4:4-5, Phil. 2:5-11, Col. 1:12-22, 1 Tim.6:14-16, Heb.1:1-5, 7:22-28, 9:24-28, 1 Jn. 1:1-3, 4:2-3, 15)

We believe that He is the only way to the salvation of mankind.

Hebrews 7:25-“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them”

3. HOLY SPIRIT - We believe in the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Divine Trinity, that He is always present and active in the Church of Christ, that His function is to convict the world of sin, restoring those that repent, sanctifying those that believe, and is a guide to the truth that is found in Jesus Christ. We believe in the manifestation and the power of the Holy Spirit freely & voluntarily. (Jn.7:39, 16:7-15, 1-4, Rom. 8:1-27, 2 Thes. 2:13, 1 Jn 3:24)

The Holy Spirit’s dwelling place is in the lives of those that have accepted the salvation through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2: 10 - 12. “These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11) For who knows a

person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God." v.12) What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

4. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES - We believe in the full inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, by which we understand that the 66 books of the Old and New Testament were given by divine inspiration revealing infallibly the will of God necessary for our salvation and life according to God's perfect will. (Lk. 24:44-47, 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 2 Tim. 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)

5. ATONEMENT - We believe that Jesus Christ by His sufferings, by the shedding of his precious blood, and His death on the cross, made a full atonement for all the sins of humanity. We believe that this atonement is the only way of salvation, and is sufficient for every individual that repents and believes. (Rom. 3:25, 1 John 2:2, 4:10)

6. REPENTANCE - As the Holy Spirit convicts, we realize we have sinned. Repenting is turning your back on sin and following God by allowing God to change your life around for the good. The Spirit of God also gives help to all those that want to repent, so that they can believe, receive forgiveness, and continue their spiritual walk. (Psalms 32:5-6, Is. 55:6-7, Ezekiel 18:30-32, 33:14-16, Lk.13:1-5, Acts.2:38, 3:19) **THAT IS SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS!** John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 10:9-10; Heb. 7:25; Acts 2:21,4:12,16:31; Titus 2:11-12; Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 2:5)

7. BAPTISM - We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our God, is an outward testimony that signifies the acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ. To the believer, it declares their faith in Jesus Christ as their only Savior and His full purpose of obedience to holiness and justice. Baptism is a symbol of a new covenant. Baptism should be administered by immersion according to the Holy Scriptures. Any other form does not support the definition of the word baptism, which implies the submersion below the waters. Only in the case of being physically incapable, will there be an alternative method. (Matt. 3:128:16-20, Acts 2:37-41, 8:35-39, 10:44-48, 19:1-3, Rom.6:3-4, Gal. 3:26-28, Col. 2:12)

We do not believe in the baptism of babies, since they do not understand the concept of sin, only when a person recognizes their guilt and repents may they have the right to be baptized. However we do believe in the dedication of babies.

Before being baptized the person should know the following:

*What baptism means - Col 2.12 "having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead?"

* Baptism has significance: Die to the old life and live a new life.

*Being underneath the waters means: You are leaving the old life behind.

* Coming out of the water means: You are raised into a new life in Christ.

* Who should be baptized? Those that have CONFESSED and BELIEVE in the Lord. (Romans 10:9) "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

* Baptism is by immersion (submerged in the waters) Why? Because:

The Word baptism comes from the Greek word bapto or BAPTIZO, which means submerged below. In the ancient times there existed a profession called baptizer. These were the ones that would take the clothing and submerge them below the waters so that they would take on a certain color. To not be submerged (underneath) does not complete with the definition of what baptism means. The body must be submerged (below) the waters. This is what the word indicates.

* Baptism is a declaration of faith. To be baptized implies to give an example to all as to who you were and what you have done. Baptism does not forgive sins, that is only done by Jesus. Jesus Christ himself, being innocent of all sin, went to the waters and was submerged in baptism by John the Baptist. The same way we, the body of Christ, should be submerged in His presence and give testimony of our faith. This is a way of letting the world know that there is a new beginning.

8. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will come once again, that those that are living during the time of His coming will not precede those that have fallen asleep in Christ Jesus. Even more, if we have



remained in Him we will be captured with the holy resurrected saints to reunite with the Lord in the air, and we will always be with Him. The time of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is unknown to mankind. (Matt.25:31-46, John 14:1-3, Acts 1:9-11, Phil.3:20-21, 1 Thes.4:13-18, 2 Peter 3:3-15, Rev.1:7-8, 22:7-20)

9. THE RESURRECTION, THE JUDGEMENT, AND ETERNITY - We believe in the resurrection of the dead, that the bodies, the unjust as well as the just, will be revived and united with its spirit. Those that believed, and therefore lived for Christ, will go out of this resurrection to eternal life. As well, those that did not will go out of this resurrection to eternal damnation. We believe in the future judgment, in which all persons will go before God to be judged according to their acts in this life. We believe that those that are saved by believing in Jesus Christ, our Lord, have eternal salvation, and therefore will receive the joy in a glorious eternal life with Jesus. Those that remain in disobedience until the end will suffer eternally in Hell. (Is. 26:19, Daniel 12:2-3, Mt. 25:31-46, Mark 9:43-48, Lk.16:19-31, 20:27-38, John 5:25-29, Rom. 2:1-16, 14:7-12, 1 Cor.15:12-58, 2 Cor. 5:10)

10. MARRIAGE - We believe that the Marriage Institution was ordained by God. Marriage should be a relationship exclusively between one man and one woman, in which both convert into one body being united physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. The intention is that this institution would last a lifetime. The union is assured by a holy vow, an alliance, and consummated by physical unity; faithfulness, care, and mutual support must be in the foundation of the marriage. The marriage covenant is morally bound while both spouses are living. Breaking this covenant is a violation of the divine plan of the perpetuity of marriage. By this conviction, we oppose same sex marriage. (Gen.1:26-28, 2:23-24, Malachi 2:13-16, Mt.19:3-9, Eph. 5:21-33, 1 Thes. 4:3-8, Hebrews 13:4) We believe that each case of the separation of a marriage is treated individually and particularly according to the specific situation of each couple.

11. DIVORCE OR SEPARATION OF MARRIAGE - Marriages that are found involved in situations of the infidelity of a spouse should look to prayer as a redeeming course of action in pure harmony with their vows and in clear teaching of the Scriptures, with the purpose of saving the home and guarding the good name of Christ and the church. Couples that are experiencing serious marriage problems should search for the counsel and guidance of their pastor or whichever spiritual leader appropriate. To not comply with these steps of good faith and with a sincere desire to search for a Christian solution, obtaining a divorce and remarriage could result in that one or both spouses may be pulled from serving. This disciplinary action will be determined by

the Pastoral and/or Deacon Bodies. When a marriage has separated, we believe that Christ can redeem them, just like with the Samaritan woman at the well. Spouses are encouraged to look for the grace of God and his redeeming help in the marriage relationship. The couples can be received back to serving after they have presented evidence of reconciliation, and that they have understood the holiness of a Christian marriage. (Mt 5:31-32, Mt. 19:3-9, Rom. 7: 1-3, 1 Cor.7:10-16, Mark 10:1-12) We believe that each case of the separation of marriage is treated individually and particularly, according to the specific situation of each couple.

12. HOMOSEXUALITY - We love the individuals but cannot accept this life style. We recognize the socially expectable stance on this matter and we take the Biblical view that homosexuality is contrary to the laws of God and Nature and therefore recognize the profoundness of its perversion and therefore are compelled to deny ownership to those who willingly practice this sin. We would encourage those caught in this web of deception to remember Jesus loves them and died to set them free and OKA is here to help break bondage and set prisoners free through Jesus. (giving us the Biblical mandate to deny ownership). In case of the revelation of the sinful condition in one of the owners, this person will be considered for removal of ownership from the church after trying to restore them, and it not being fruitful. (Gen. 1:27, 19:1-25, Lev. 20:13, Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 1 Tim. 1:8-10)

13. ABORTION - At IChurch we believe in the sacredness of human life as God, the Creator, has established it, and that it should be defended for a child even if it has not yet been delivered. We believe a child is born at conception. Therefore, we oppose abortion induced by all methods, when it is used or for personal convenience or for population control. We oppose the laws that authorize abortion. (Psalm 22:10 Psalm 139:13-16)

Note: IChurch is composed of a structure and a constitutional doctrine taken from the Word of God. The creed of faith shall be used to care for the church and its parliamentary rules. This creed is revised by the Pastoral Board and consented by the Executive Board.