

OCCS Statement of Faith/Form of Subscription
(January, 2012)

I believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and thus is an infallible guide in all matters it addresses. I have reviewed and believe the Three Forms of Unity: the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Confession, and the Canons of Dort; and the Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostles Creed, The Nicene Creed, and The Athanasian Creed, as they are an accurate reflection of the understanding of God and Scripture.

I am in agreement with the Orange City Christian School's Foundation Statement:

The following Biblical teachings have direct application for the way in which schools are organized and children are educated.

God: Because God created and controls all things and sent His Son to redeem all things, we cannot properly study this world without acknowledging Jesus Christ as the Lord of all creation and His Holy Spirit as the source of all wisdom. (Genesis 1:1, John 3:16a, Colossians 1:17, I Corinthians 2:12)

Sin: Sin distorts all knowledge and understanding of God, self, our fellow human beings, and creation itself. An effective education acknowledges our sinful disobedience, reveals the effects of that sin, and seeks to re-direct thoughts and lives in obedience and service to God. (Romans 1:21, Ephesians 4:18, Romans 12:2a)

Revelation (Scripture): Only God's perfect Word, the Bible, provides a reliable point of view from which we can learn to see God and His world clearly, to understand our place in His world properly, and to begin to follow His guidance faithfully in every part of our lives. (II Timothy 3:16-17, Psalms 111:10, James 3:17)

Covenant: The children of Christian parents are included in God's covenant with his people. Therefore, these children of God deserve an educational environment which treats them with love, care, and respect due members of God's family. (Genesis 17:7, Acts 2:39, Mark 10:16)

Kingdom: Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and placed at God's right hand as Lord of lords and King of kings. Therefore, all education must be dedicated to Jesus Christ as the Lord and committed to training children as citizens of His everlasting kingdom. (Revelations 17:14, I Peter 2:9, I Corinthians 15:24-25)

Parents: Parents have the primary responsibility to educate their children. Parents carry out part of that duty by establishing Christian schools and hiring Christian teachers who have been trained to set goals and establish curricula that will best prepare pupils to live the Christian life. Because parents and their children are part of the broader Christian community, the entire Christian community helps the parents in this task by supporting the school with their generous gifts of prayer, time, and money. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7a, Proverbs 22:6, Romans 12:5)

Children: Each child has been made in the image of God. A child's complete education requires a school which nurtures that child in understanding his or her own privilege and responsibility as an image bearer of God and disciple of Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:27, Romans 12:1, Matthew 28:19-20a)

I am in agreement with the following:

God is one eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty, completely wise, just and good God, in whom there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three persons are really, truly, and eternally distinct, and yet in no way divided.

Jesus Christ is God's only Son. Jesus Christ died to pay atonement for sin and provide salvation for sinners. Belief and faith in Jesus Christ and His salvation work is the only way to be made right with God and live with Him in heaven one day. People can not contribute towards their salvation or earn salvation through their good deeds and actions.

The Holy Spirit, along with the Word of God, produces true faith. The Holy Spirit regenerates and makes new people, causing people to live new lives and freeing people from the bondage of sin.

By God's grace I understand it is essential to have a solid, biblical content in my doctrinal understanding of faith, but it is equally important to have a dynamic, vital relationship to God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son, and to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. I further understand my role as a leader and representative of OCCS is to contribute to students' knowing God more deeply and encouraging them to live for Him more faithfully, thereby bringing glory to His name.

All areas of life are created by God and need to be transformed, enjoyed, and worked by His people. All things were created good and became corrupted with sin. We are called to bring restoration to this fallen world with the help of God and His Word, the Bible.

The Canons of Dort describe the depth of our sinfulness and our inability to achieve salvation outside of the grace of God. Specifically there are five points that are helpful in distinguishing reformed beliefs regarding salvation:

- a. Total Depravity: Sin has corrupted every aspect of our being. People are unable to choose God without first being regenerated (reborn) by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Unconditional Election: God chooses to save people from sin's penalties based on His sovereign plan.
- c. Limited Atonement: The extent of Christ's sacrifice is focused on the elect. This means that His atonement was completely effective in bringing about salvation for everyone in God's salvation plan.
- d. Irresistible Grace: God's regenerative call is completely effective and cannot be rejected. Once someone is born again, they will follow God's call.
- e. Perseverance of the Saints: God's elect cannot lose their salvation.

Church Membership Requirement By-law change for Staff and Board Members:

. . . members in good standing of a Bible-believing, Christian church whose teachings are compatible with the Orange City Christian School Mission Statement, Foundation Statement, and Statement of Faith.