

SWC Standards of Ministry

1. Agreement to the Statement of Faith

Christians from different backgrounds can hold varying opinions on minor subjects but it is important that we are all in agreement on the fundamental, foundational beliefs of the faith. Refer to the statement of faith on page 2.

2. Committed members of SWC

It is important that those who serve in a ministry of SWC are committed members of our church community. We understand regular church attendance and tithing to be an important part of that commitment.

3. Biblical Authority

When serving in a spiritual ministry at SWC, we are both exercising and operating under the authority of the church. It is important that we serve with a willingness to submit to the leaders over us. There will be times when we all think that our way of doing something is better than the leader. Recognizing authority means that we submit both in our actions and our hearts with good grace.

4. Humility and a teachable spirit

At SWC, we believe that it is important that we are open to input, constructive criticism and guidance from those who lead the different departments of the church. It is a natural reflex when we feel someone is critiquing us to immediately defend ourselves. We believe that mature Christians are those who will choose to step into humility and take on-board advice and guidance.

5. Commitment to personal holiness

As a church we teach and believe that God forgives all our sin upon repentance, but that repentance also means turning from a lifestyle of sin. We welcome anyone in our church gatherings but require that those who serve in a spiritual capacity embrace a lifestyle of holiness as defined by biblical standards.

We believe that the bible teaches a commitment to sexual purity and that the only legitimate context for a sexual relationship is between one man and one woman who are married for life. We ask a commitment that anyone serving in a spiritual ministry at SWC abstain from sex outside of marriage, cohabiting with a partner, homosexual/lesbian relationships, pornography, etc.

6. Personal issues

We ask that anyone struggling with any deep personal issues such as depression, substance abuse/addictions, mental issues, anger management, etc., abstain from spiritual ministry. Our desire as a church is that we all live in Christ's freedom and minister it to others. If you are battling something in your life right now it may be wiser to walk through those issues personally before you seek to help others.

If you are struggling with any of these areas, in advance of participating in spiritual ministry please speak to Pastor Graham who will keep that in confidence.

SWC Statement of Faith

- We believe the entire Bible to be the inspired, infallible Word of God, the revelation of God's will for man and the divine and final authority for the Christian life. (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- We believe in one God, the creator of all things, who is revealed in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut 6:4, Jn 15:26)
- We acknowledge Jesus Christ as true God and true man – conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, crucified, and resurrected – our High Priest and Advocate now seated at the right hand of God the Father (Mt 1:18, Heb 12:2)
- We believe in personal salvation and forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, acknowledging every person's need for the grace and mercy of God. (Rom 3:23, Eph 1:7, 1Ptr 1:3, 1 Jn 1:9)
- We believe in the eventual resurrection of the dead, the eternal happiness of the saved, and the eternal punishment of the lost. (Jn 14:1-3, 1 Jn 5:11, Rev 20:15)
- We baptize in water all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and who desire to publicly identify with Him, in accordance with the Bible's command. (Mt 28:19, Act 8:36-39, Rom 6:4)
- We believe in the present supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit, whose purpose is to glorify Jesus Christ and instruct and empower every believer for godly living and service. (Jn 16:13, 1 Cor 12:1-11)
- We believe that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a promise from the Father for every believer and is distinct and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. Speaking in tongues, as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, is a physical indication of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. (Mt 3:11, Acts 2:4, 38-39, 19:4-6)
- We serve the Lord's Supper and, according to Scripture, remember Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and celebrate His resurrection power. (Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor 11:23-26)
- We believe in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that His appearance will be accompanied by a bodily resurrection of those who have died in Christ. (Mt 24:29-31, 1 Th 4:13-18)
- We believe that Jesus is the Healer. (Isa 53:5, Mt 8:16-17, Jm 5:14-15, 1 Ptr 2:24)
- We believe in the power and effectiveness of prayer. (Phi 4:6-7, Jm 5:15-16)
- We believe in God's terrific plan for each of His followers to honor God and help people. (Mt 5:16, 25:40, Jer 29:11.)