

Annual Affirmation (by staff, directors, leaders, agents and voting members) of the COTR Core Documents:

COTR Vision and Mission, COTR Statement of Faith, COTR Lifestyle Agreement and Code of Conduct, and the COTR Statement on the Sanctity of Life.

As Christians that possess a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we wish to further the aims of COTR in a true spirit of love and compassion, combined with a genuine concern for the needs of those whom we will serve, seeking to do all for the glory of God.

I, _____, as an individual serving with COTR, believe in, and am committed to the statement of faith of COTR. I affirm that I have read and believe the Statement of Faith and accept it as a condition of continuing service with COTR. I also affirm that I have read and accept the COTR Lifestyle Agreement and Code of Conduct and the Statement on the Sanctity of Life, and I understand that these values are a condition of employment and/or a condition for leadership with COTR.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Vision

Helping people to KNOW GOD, LIVE FREE, and FIND PURPOSE (Philippians 3:10-12).

Mission

IMPACTING our city, our country, the nations by: **PREACHING** the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **TEACHING** family values, and **REACHING** out to those in need.

Statement of Faith

1. There is one true eternal God, Creator of the universe, and Redeemer of mankind (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 43:10–11; Psalm 90:2*). God has further revealed Himself as a triune being manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (*Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22; 2 Corinthians 13:14*).
2. The scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are inspired of God, and comprise the infallible and authoritative Word of God to mankind (*2 Timothy 3:15–17; 2 Peter 19–21*).
3. The Lord Jesus Christ is God as manifest to mankind, and shares in the divinity and deity of God (*Matthew 1:23; John 5:22–23; 2 John 1:3; Hebrews 1:1–13; John 1:1–2, 20:28*). Christ lived a sinless life (*2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15*), performed divine miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 10:38*), and was born of a virgin (*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:34*).
4. Adam and Eve were created good and upright before God (*Genesis 1:26–27*). The first man, Adam, through disobedience, fell from the grace of God, and thus sin entered the world and spread to all men (*Romans 5:12*). Since the fall of Adam all mankind has been born with a sinful nature (*Ephesians 2:3*).
5. Satan is a fallen angel, an enemy of God and mankind (*Isaiah 14:12–16; Ezekiel 28:12–16; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:8*).
6. Mankind's only hope of salvation from the power and consequences of sin and death is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, bringing us into life and victory in Christ (*1 Corinthians 15:55–57; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8–13, 10:9–10; James 1:21; Ephesians 2:8*). Man's redemption was purchased through Jesus' substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, and His ascension to the right hand of the Father (*2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23; Hebrews 8:1–6, 9:15–26*).

7. Water baptism is an important symbolic identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (*Romans 6:3–6; Colossians 2:11–14*). Water baptism should be done by immersion (*Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:36–39*), done into the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:19*), and should be done in the name of Jesus (*Acts 8:16, 10:48*).
8. In communion the bread and the fruit of the vine are symbolic of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Luke 22:19–20*). We are encouraged to partake of these elements in remembrance of Him (*1 Corinthians 11:23–26*). In doing so, God gives the promise and hope of spiritual life, emotional strength and physical healing (*1 Corinthians 11:27–34; Acts 2:46*).
9. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (*Acts 2:4, 19:6*). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit comes the receiving of the power of God (*Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4–8*). The Holy Spirit also gives the manifestation of the spiritual gifts, and distributes to each one individually as He wills (*1 Corinthians 12:1–31*). This experience is subsequent to the experience of new birth and distinct from new birth and water baptism (*Acts 8:12–17, 10:44–46, 11:14–15, 15:7–9; John 20:22; Acts 4–8*).
10. Divine healing was provided for and purchased in the redemptive work of Christ; it is an integral part of our new covenant (*Isaiah 53:4–5; Matthew 8:16–17; 1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 103:1–3; James 5:14–16*).
11. Christ will return in glory for His church: the dead in Christ will rise first, and then those who remain shall be caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord in the air. The believer shall live and reign with Christ (*1 Thessalonians 4:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:51–57; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 5:10*). The resurrection of the unbelieving shall be to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire (*Revelation 20:11–15*).
12. Marriage is defined to be a living example of the relationship between Christ and the Church (*Ephesians 5:31–32*). It is a holy sacrament of the church defined as being between one naturally born man and one naturally born woman. As a church, we do not recognize common-law or same-sex marriage (*Genesis 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–6; Hebrews 13:4*).

COTR Lifestyle Agreement and Code of Conduct

This agreement sets out standards that express loving faithfulness and service to Christ as a condition of service. Church of The Rock elders, volunteers, employees, directors, agents and voting members are expected to adhere to our code of conduct.

Church of the Rock rejects the following conduct, viewing it as being incompatible with biblical standards and values for personal lifestyle of anyone serving with Church of the Rock:

- a. **Abusive behaviour;** (*Lev 18; 1 Tim 5:22; 1 John 3:3*)
- b. **Breach of trust or confidence;** (*Matt 5:3, 19:18; Phil 4:8; 1 John 3:3*)
- c. **Criminal activity;** (*Ex 20:12–17; Matt 5:37; 1 John 3:3*)
- d. **Extra-marital sexual relationships** (adultery); (*Ex 20:14; Lev 18; Rom 7:3; 1 Cor 5:1–2, 9–13; Eph 5:3–5; Heb 13:4*)
- e. **Gambling behaviour** (habitual, compulsive or addictive); (*Prov 15:27a*)
- f. **Lying,** deceit or dishonesty; (*Matt 5:37; 19:18; Eph 4:25–29*)
- g. **Occultic practices** or adherence to or participation in occultic activities; (*Deut 18:10–11; Acts 13:6–9; Gal 5:19–21*)
- h. **Participation or involvement in pornography,** including reading, viewing, or listening to pornographic material; (*Phil 4:8; Col 3:5; 1 John 3:3*)
- i. **Premarital sexual relationships** (fornication); (*Acts 15:29; Eph 5:3–5; Heb 13:4*)
- j. **Physical aggression;** (*Lev 18; 1 John 3:3*)
- k. **Racist conduct** or expressing racist viewpoints; (*James 2:1–4; Col 3:10–11*)
- l. **Same-sex unions** or unions involving transsexual and transgendered individuals, practices and relationships, promotion or support of such activity or organization, or any other sexual activity or organization departing from biblical standards; (*Lev 18; Rom 1:26–27; 1 Cor 10:8*)
- m. **Substance abuse,** including the abuse of alcohol and drugs; (*Phil 4:8; 1 Tim 5:22; 1 John 3:3*)
- n. **Sexual assault, abuse, or harassment;** (*Lev 18; 1 John 3:3*)
- o. **Theft or fraud;** (*Ex 20:15, 17; Matt 5:37*)
- p. **Use of profane or abusive language;** (*Eph 4:29; Col 3:8*)
- q. **Other behaviours** or activities deemed inconsistent with biblical moral standards.

Statement on the Sanctity of Life

Church of the Rock affirms that all human life is sacred. Scripture teaches that every human being is created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26–27) Further it asserts that every individual is known by God from before the foundation of the world (Jeremiah 1:4–5, Psalm 139:13–17).

It is our understanding from Scripture that life, or at the very least the potential of future life, begins at conception. Therefore human life is not more sacred at one point than another. Since all life exists for God’s purposes and all human lives are equally sacred, it is our belief that only God has the right to terminate innocent life.¹ (This statement acknowledges that an argument could be made that Capital punishment² and/or Just War³ may not be prohibited by Scripture.)

Therefore as a church we would oppose induced abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, murder, or any shedding of innocent blood (Proverbs 6:16–17, Exodus 20:13, Exodus 21:22–25). That being said, God is gracious and His mercy endures forever. We will always endeavor to extend grace, dignity, and forgiveness to those that in their past have found themselves on the wrong side of this moral imperative.

Enforcement of Lifestyle Agreement and Morality Standards

While the previous list is not exhaustive, it does outline areas of conduct deemed inconsistent with Christian conduct and biblical standards. Consequences for breaching these standards will vary depending on the circumstances and may result in church discipline including termination from a role or office as a volunteer, employee, director, agent or official leader. The assessment of behavior as being contrary to these standards and values and the determination of the consequences for such behaviour within the context of the Church, is in the entire discretion of the governing elders of the church.

Disciplinary Action:

- Probation
- Monitoring
- Loss of membership, volunteer privileges, termination from staff or disfellowship (denied participation in church group activities)

¹ Our position could be described as similar to what is known as the *Consistent Life Ethic* which opposes abortion, infanticide, capital punishment, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and unjust war.

² *Contra Faustum Manichaeum* – Saint Augustine

³ *City of God* – Saint Augustine