

## DEERFOOT LODGE STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. I believe that the Bible is the infallible word of God comprised of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It was written under the full inspiration of the Holy Spirit and is the principal revelation of God's character and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. No human words or ideas can be added to the Bible or elevated to a status equal with the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Peter 1:21)
2. I believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, His only Son Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; John 1:1-4)
3. I believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is both fully God and fully human, and yet without sin. (John 1:1-4; Luke 1:26-38; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15)
4. I believe in the unique nature of man as a moral and rational being created by God in His image distinct from all other living creatures, and in the historic fall of man into sin, thereby bringing all humanity under God's condemnation. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12-21)
5. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins according to the Scriptures, taking upon himself the judgment I deserved, so that all who believe in Him are justified and sanctified by faith alone through his shed blood. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 6:23; Romans 3:23-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)
6. I believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven, in His present life as my High Priest, Advocate, and sole Mediator between myself and God the Father, and in His future personal return to judge the world and gather all believers to Himself. (Acts 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:12-15; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 24:30)
7. I believe in the everlasting salvation of lost and sinful people, and that salvation is the gift of God to man, received only by personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is wholly an act of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human effort. (John 1:12; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-10)
8. I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and gives life to all believers, enables them to understand the Scriptures, empowers them for godly living, and transforms their character to bear the Fruit of God's Spirit in order to equip them for service and witness. (John 16:7, 13; Galatians 5: 16-24; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Peter 1:3)
9. I believe in the spiritual unity of all believers, that all those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are united as one Church under Him and have a supernatural ability to work together as one body. I believe in the priesthood of all believers, so that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord can approach him directly and pray to him directly in all matters of faith and life. (Ephesians 1:22 - 23; Ephesians 4:15-16; Hebrews 4:14-16; )
10. I believe in the personal return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the bodily resurrection of the redeemed in Christ to the enjoyment of God forever in His presence, and in the bodily resurrection of the unredeemed to the judgment of God forever apart from His presence. (Matthew 25:46; 1 Corinthians 15:42-55; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Revelation 20:5-6;12-15)

## **Statement of Faith Heritage & Practice**

1. We are primarily evangelical and protestant in our affiliations, though we have no formal affiliation with any particular denomination.
2. Evangelism and discipleship are important parts of our mission, but we avoid high pressure methods to coerce campers to believe and grow in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
3. We place a high value on the past traditions of Deerfoot, including but not limited to the Breaking of Bread service as a symbolic act that brings believers together in worship of Christ, a mix of traditional hymns and favorite contemporary songs, a specific style of corporate worship, a spirit of encouragement and building one another up, the importance of daily devotions, a rugged wilderness experience to teach Scriptural principles, and a commitment to model faith in all of life.
4. We embrace a culture of managed risk that produces growth in both staff and campers. Learning to identify and adapt to hazards in the wilderness, experiencing pristine parts of God's creation not easily reached, the challenge of carrying a pack over distance on rugged trails, and living together in a primitive campsite community provide opportunities for the kinds of character and spiritual growth needed in godly young men.
5. The priority of our mission is to build godly men. We do this in a Christ-centered community through wilderness camping.
6. We require staff and campers to live within DL's expression of faith heritage and practice during their time at camp.

## **Staff Compliance**

1. The Director is responsible to determine the 'faith fit' of prospective staff members.
2. If a prospective staff member belongs to a denomination whose teachings are at variance with DL's statement of faith and faith heritage, the director will probe those differences as part of the hiring process to determine harmony with DL's commitments.
3. While there may be different levels of maturity of faith expression exhibited in different staff positions, all staff must hold to both DL's Statement of Faith and Statement of Faith Heritage & Practice without reservation. Exceptions to this will be rare and at the discretion of the Director and with the knowledge of the Board.