

Gospel Support and Homes Trust - Statement of Faith

CORE CONVICTIONS

Our core convictions which unite us as we work together as part of Gospel Support & Homes Trust include the following:

1. We are convinced of the full and final trustworthiness and authority of the Bible and the truths set out in the Gospel Support & Homes Trust doctrinal basis (see below).
2. We are convinced that our sovereign God is a God of mission who calls us to a prayerful dependence on him as we fulfil our calling to take the gospel to the nations.
3. We are convinced of the need for lost people to hear the good news of Jesus who died for our sins and rose again.
4. We are convinced of the power of God's word to bring people to new birth and the need for the verbal proclamation of the gospel.
5. We are convinced of the centrality of the local church in the purposes of God as he works to gather a redeemed people for himself and for his glory.

A necessary conviction to state in the current context is that we are also convinced of the need to uphold in love and with compassion the teaching of the biblical Scripture regarding gender identity, marriage and human sexual relations, understood to include the following:

1. God created us male and female and calls us to live according to our gender identity which accords with our biological sex determined at conception. Our God-given gender identity cannot be changed or reassigned.
2. Marriage is ordained by God for the good of mankind and for the glory of God. The only marriage approved by Scripture is that between one man and one woman, lawfully joined together in matrimony.
3. Recognising both the blessing and the dangers of our God-given human capacity for sexual relations, the Scripture permits and encourages sexual relations only between two persons, one male and one female, who are married to one another, as defined above. For God's people all other sexual relations are forbidden.

DOCTRINAL BASIS

Trustees and those working at a senior level in Gospel Support & Homes Trust are required to affirm “The Christian Faith” meaning the Protestant and Evangelical Faith which holds to be of first importance the fundamental truths of Christianity revealed in Scripture, including those confirmed by the church’s historic catholic creeds, and those set out in the statement following, all in its clear and plain meaning without reservation and including belief in the following:

- The one and only, living and true God, in three eternal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption, judgement and in all things past, present, and future.
- The full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God; his virgin conception by the Holy Spirit and his coming in real and sinless humanity as the Christ promised in the Scriptures; his death on the cross for our sins, his bodily resurrection to rule heaven and earth and his return to judge all people and renew his creation.
- Since the fall the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God’s just wrath and condemnation.
- Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of our representative and penal substitute, Jesus Christ our Lord, the only mediator between God and people.
- Justification by grace through faith in Christ alone as an act of God’s mercy by which sinners may be both pardoned of all sin and imputed with the righteousness of God in Christ.
- The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to sinners, granting new life and repentance from sin towards God and faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all who are regenerate to produce an increasing likeness to Christ in character and behaviour and witness.
- The one, holy, apostolic, heavenly church to which all true believers belong.
- The future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ to judge all people, to execute God’s just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to share his eternal glory in his renewed creation.
- The supreme divine authority, inerrancy, sufficiency and consistency of Holy Scripture, which is the Word of God who does not lie, in all matters of faith and conduct for salvation.
- The preservation by God of all who are regenerate for heaven.