

# Statement of Faith Introduction

March 2022

I began here at Gilmour in October of 2009. A lot has happened in 12.5 years. After a year of supervision, I was ordained here by this congregation, and our denomination. But before that Ordination Service, as a few of you may recall, I had an ordination examining council meeting with representatives from across the region. During the first part of that examining council meeting, I presented an ordination paper...a statement of faith. And during the second part of that meeting, I answered all questions in defending that paper. I left the room, and then the members at Gilmour, and the delegates representing other churches took a vote...and I was relieved when they share I had the full support of those at the council meeting.

Though some of you were not at the Ordination Examining Council meeting to hear my statement of faith and defence of it, you have heard it and heard me defend it in other ways. Over the course of the past 12.5 years here at Gilmour, I have preached more than 600 Bible based sermons. And through these messages, I have attempted to communicate these truths...truths about the Bible, about God, about Salvation, eternity, things to come, and how we ought to live in light of God's revelation and Word.

In a moment I will read a statement of faith that the deacons and I propose for adoption here at Gilmour. It is not new. It is very ancient. The roots are not just found in our historic position as evangelicals and Baptists, its roots go deeper than my own ordination statement, experience, and theological training. The deepest roots are the Holy Scriptures-as seen by the reference to over 80 verses throughout the statement.

You might be thinking, why? Why do we need to adopt a statement of faith? I suggest 3 reasons. For one it clarifies, secondly it protects, and thirdly it unites.

1. For one, the statement of faith will help clarify the church's position on key doctrinal subjects, and protect the church from subjective interpretations. In a changing world with changing values and morals, we need to be clear where we stand. We need to be humble and gracious as well, but firm on the core doctrines of our faith. Statements of Faith are not greater than the Bible, but they help us to be clear and concrete about **what we Believe** in the Bible to be true.
2. Secondly, the statement of faith will protect the message of the gospel. Over the centuries, and in many places, the good news of Jesus Christ has not been accurately taught and so this statement helps us to guard against false gospels.
3. Finally, the statement of faith will help us to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). By sharing core articles of the faith together, we link arms so-to-speak, around the things that matter most. When essentials are not defined, there is room for division over beliefs and practices. But professing our faith together on these core doctrines preserves unity and harmony.

It is my hope and prayer that we adopt this statement of faith, and that it will be embraced as a core document, like the covenant and constitution. If more time is needed for reflection, then so be it. May God by His Spirit lead.

-Pastor Ben Denhoed