

Schedule 1

3. The basis of the Christian Counselling Centre that members and directors of the Christian Counselling Centre are required to subscribe to is the Word of God, the Bible. The main teachings of the Bible are:

a. God. We believe in one true God. Among his attributes are those of eternity, sovereignty, wisdom, holiness, love, justice, and mercy. We believe the one God exists in three distinct, divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three divine persons are equal in all their divine attributes. (*Texts include Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; Dan. 4:34-35; Rom. 11:33; Is. 6:1-4; Ps. 136; Ps. 11:7; Ex. 33:19; Mt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14.*)

b. Scripture. We believe that even though God has revealed something of himself and his truth in his creation (“general revelation”) he has spoken to us most clearly in the Scripture, his Word (“special revelation”). When God reveals truths through general revelation, we depend upon the Scripture to interpret these truths. The Scripture of the Old and New Testaments is breathed out (inspired) by God, and therefore is infallible and inerrant. In its sixty-six books the Bible is complete and is our final authority in doctrine and life. (*Texts include Ps. 19; Rom. 1:18-20; Acts 7:22; 1 Cor. 1: 20-25; Col. 2:2-3; 2 Tim. 3:16; Jn. 10:35; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Mt. 4:4; 2 Pet.1:3-4.*)

c. Creation. We believe God created the entire universe out of nothing. Man and woman were created as the crown of God’s good creation, made in his own image. As his image-bearers, we were created to worship God and reflect him in true knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. (*Texts include Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-10.*)

d. Fall into Sin. We believe that Adam and Eve, our first parents, rebelled against God and plunged themselves and all their offspring into sin and ruin. Because of Adam’s sin, we enter this world as guilty sinners and every aspect of our human nature is corrupted by sin. We are unable to turn to God unless he first calls us and changes our hearts. (*Texts include: Gen. 3; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Ps. 51:5; Is. 64:6; Rom. 5:12-21; Jn. 6:44; Eph. 2:1-5; Rom 8:30.*)

e. Person of Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus Christ is fully man and fully God. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, worked miracles, suffered, died, bodily rose again, ascended to heaven, was seated at the Father’s right hand, and now rules over all things. (*Texts include Mt. 16:16; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Tim. 3:16; Tit. 2:13; Acts 2:22-36; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Eph. 1:20-23.*)

f. Work of Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus Christ lived a perfect life and died an accursed death that we might be considered righteous by God and forgiven of our sins. He was our sacrificial substitute, dying on the cross for us. He redeemed us, removed our guilt, and has taken away the wrath of God which was upon us because of our sin. Now in heaven Jesus intercedes for us as our compassionate High Priest. (*Texts include: 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Jn. 1:8-2:2; Heb. 4:14-5:2.*)

g. Salvation. We believe that we are justified—declared righteous before God—through faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone. God the Father justifies us on the basis of Jesus’ perfect righteousness which the Father has credited to us, apart from our doing any good works. We receive this gift of righteousness only by saving faith in Jesus. (*Texts include: Rom. 3-4; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 2:16; Rom. 3:22; Gal. 3:21-25.*)

h. Holy Spirit. We believe the Holy Spirit has been sent by God the Father and the Son. The Spirit transforms our spiritually dead hearts, making us alive as we hear the gospel, and He enables us to trust in Jesus. The Spirit gives us the motivation and the power to live for Jesus. Following initial conversion, the Spirit causes us to grow in holiness. (*Texts include: Jn. 14:15-17, 26; Jn. 16:13-15; Acts 2:33; Tit. 3:5; Gal. 5:16-26; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Cor. 3:18.*)

i. Church. We believe the church is the covenant people of God, the communion of saints. The church is comprised of believers from every tribe, language, people, and nation. Jesus Christ has given his church two sacraments: water baptism and the Lord’s Supper. As Christians we have a duty to join a local church in order to worship the Triune God, to hear the preaching of God’s Word, to receive the sacraments, to be overseen by elders and pastors, and to use our spiritual gifts to benefit other Christians. (*Texts include: Eph. 2:11-22; Rev. 5:9-10; Mt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 2; 1 Cor. 12, 14.*)

j. Christian living. We believe that out of thankfulness to God for saving us in Christ we must live in obedience to him. In order to better know how to obey God, he has given us various commandments in his Word, including the Ten Commandments. We must grow in holiness which, among other things, means that we must increasingly put to death the remnants of our old, sinful nature, and increasingly put on our new nature in Christ. Ultimately, our main purpose is to live for God’s glory. (*Texts include: Jn. 14:15; Eph 2:8-10; Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 119; Mk. 10:19; Rom. 7:12; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:1-14; 1 Cor. 10:31.*)

k. Last Things. We believe Jesus Christ will return to earth personally, visibly, and bodily. At his return all people who have died shall be raised; those who are living will be changed; and everyone will receive new bodies. All people will be judged by Jesus, and those who had refused to trust in him will be punished in hell, a place of conscious and eternal punishment. We who have trusted in Jesus will be acquitted in the final judgment and will be brought into the new earth. There we will live forever in the joy of the full glory of God. (*Texts include: Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:14-17; 1 Cor. 15:35-53; Mt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:10, 14-15; Mt. 25:21; Rev. 21-22.*)