

Doctrinal and Behavior Commitment Statement

In the not-too-distant past, it could be safely assumed that anyone considering him/herself a member of the churches of Christ shared certain doctrinal positions on matters which have now become controversial and divisive within our fellowship. The elders and missions committee of College Church believe it is important to know that the people we are sending to Italy with our blessing and endorsement will not be advocating or attempting to practice positions which we believe are contrary to the teachings of Scripture, likely to becoming divisive within the A.I. team and the churches in Italy, and thus detrimental to the cohesiveness and morale of the A.I. team and the congregations with which it works.

While no attempt is being made to present an exhaustive statement of beliefs, certain developments within the fellowship of the churches of Christ in recent years have moved us to be explicit about the points stated below. Aside from the central question of the conditions for salvation, it is clear that beliefs involving the corporate activity of the church, by their very nature, have the greatest potential for causing tensions and splits within the family of God. We therefore ask A.I. applicants to acknowledge and pledge the following:

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I understand that the elders and missions ministry of the College Church of Christ in Searcy, Arkansas, have well-defined and firmly-held positions on several matters which have become points of controversy and diversity of practice among churches of Christ in recent years. The positions of the elders and missions committee of the College Church of Christ include the following:

1. The Bible is the word of God and the ultimate authority for establishing the teachings and practices of His people.
2. The New Testament is the basis for the organization, work, and worship of the church.
3. Water baptism upon an expression of personal faith in Jesus is essential for salvation; the New Testament provides no basis for the concept of an "unbaptized Christian."
4. The New Testament authorizes only a cappella music in the corporate worship of the church,
5. The New Testament authorizes only male leadership and speaking roles in the corporate worship of the church.

+++++**The Pledge**+++++

In full recognition of the commitment of the elders and missions ministry of the College Church of Christ to these positions, I affirm and pledge that, as the basis for participating in an evangelistic ministry sponsored by this church, I will not advocate or teach in any setting contrary views and practices.

I further understand that my personal behavior will be an important part of my Christian witness and am prepared to live as a healthy, moral Christian whose example can reflect Jesus to the world.

Name _____ Date _____