

**Theological Conviction
Statement**

For men applying for licensure and/or ordination

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Date: March 31, 2013

Part One: Theological Views

Please state briefly your personal views on the following subjects:

1. The Inspiration and Canonicity of Scripture

The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God as given in the original languages. The Bible is the Canonized 66 books – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Canon is closed. The Bible teaches us what we need to believe about God and what He requires of man. (WCF Ch. 1)

2. The Doctrine of the Trinity

There is one true and living God. (Deut. 6:4) There are three persons in the Godhead; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:18–20) These three are one God, the same in substance, and equal in glory and power. (WCF Ch. 2)

3. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ will come again in glory. (Matt. 24:30) As taught in Acts 1:11, He “will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven,” personal, visible and in glory. He will return as the all-conquering Redeemer King. He will come to judge the living and the dead. Matt.24:30) He will receive His people to be with Him forever. Only the Father knows the day and the hour. (Matt. 24:36)

4. The Continuation of the Sign Gifts of the Holy Spirit

There are several lists regarding the gifts of the Spirit. These lists are found in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4. Gifts of the Spirit are given to communicate Christ in a way that builds up and helps believers in their Christian faith. Every Christian is given some gift of ministry.

The gift of tongues was a gift granted by the Holy Spirit to the early Christians. It gave them the ability to speak in foreign, human languages to introduce the Gospel age to people groups – Acts 2, 10, 16. The gift of tongues ceased with the close of the Apostolic age.

The canon was closed with the book of Revelation, and since the conclusion of Revelation, no extra-biblical revelation has/is/will take place.

5. The Five Points of Calvinism (with attention to the extent of the atonement)

The five points of Calvinism were developed in response to the Remonstrants'

five points of Arminianism. I adhere to all five points -- T, total depravity; U, unconditional election; L, limited (specific) atonement; I, irresistible grace; P, perseverance (preservation) of the saints.

Jesus' death and resurrection, His atonement, was sufficient for all of mankind but effective only for the elect.

6. The Doctrine of the Church (including the proper recipients of the sacraments)

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. (WCF Ch. 25)

The marks of the Church are 1) the peaching of the Word, 2) the administration of the sacraments, and 3) church discipline.

Baptism recipients - Infants where at least parent is a believer. Professing believers who were not baptized as infants. (WCF Ch. 28)

Communion recipients - those who have made a public profession of faith in an evangelical church and have been baptized. (WCF Ch. 29)

7. The Role of Women in the Church (including the issue of their ordination to church office)

There are a wide variety of roles in which women can and should undertake. They should engage themselves in areas of where they have received gifts from the Holy Spirit.

The prohibitions of women roles include the authoritative teaching of the Bible, offices of elder and deacon. (1 Tim. 2:12, 1 Tim. 3))

The offices of elder and deacon are offices unto which men and men only are to be ordained. Women are not to be ordained to these offices. (1 Tim. 3)

8. The Doctrine of Creation (including the view of the days Genesis one)

God created all things from nothing in the span of six days and on the seventh day He rested. I believe that the days of creation were 24 hour days. (Gen. 1, WCF Ch. 4)

Part Two: Exceptions to the Standards

Please list any and all exceptions you take to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms. When possible, format your statement as follows:

Section of the Confession or Catechism Number	Language to which you take exception	Explanation
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WCF 21.8	<p>1. "... after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering of their common affairs beforehand, ..."</p> <p>2. "... recreation, but also are taken up, the whole time, ..."</p>	<p>1. I believe this to be a wise practice, but do not see the requirement for this at Ex. 20:8-11 or Deut. 5:12-15</p> <p>2. Recreation can take on many forms. Recreational activities that would distract us from honoring God I believe are inappropriate, such as competing in league events. On the other hand, some form of what some may call recreation I believe is acceptable, activities like going for a casual walk or bike ride, playing catch, etc.</p>
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