



Convictions & Ministry Model

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of Oak Ridge Community Church's (ORCC) convictions and ministry model formed from our Statement of Faith. This document represents the pastors' good faith efforts, before God, to be in alignment with Holy Scripture for the shepherding of a local congregation.

The pastors and leadership of ORCC affirm the following:

VISION STATEMENT

Oak Ridge Community Church aspires to be a gathering of believers united in their practice of following Jesus and being fishers of men.

MISSION STATEMENT

In faith and reliance on the Holy Spirit, ORCC will envision, equip, and release our saints to deeply love God, one another, and the lost. We will be devoted to God's Word, evangelism and building strong families so that we can share and orientate our lives, discipling one another to full maturity in Christ.

CONVICTIONS

The pastors provide the following statements in the interest of providing clarity of expectations and maintaining the unity of the Body of Christ inside and outside of our local congregation. We base these convictions on Scripture, but we understand that other sincere believers may hold different interpretations regarding these, and other secondary doctrines. Our intentional practices based on these convictions may be summarized by, but not limited to, the following:

- All members should actively participate and be involved in a Life Group.
- All members should have an active role in the ministry of the church.
- All members should pursue the calling of purposeful discipleship, being both led and leading others.
- All members should financially support the church through consistent and sacrificial giving in accordance with their income.
- Men and women are purposefully created in God's image and are equally loved and valued by God.
- Marriage is between a man and woman.
- Only men can be recognized and serve as pastors as well as teach the congregation in an authoritative manner.
- The pastors are called to actively shepherd the flock in a spirit of love and truth. Shepherding includes encouragement, reproof, correction, and instruction in public settings and private conversations.

In addition, there are some secondary doctrines for which we do not offer a definitive interpretation, e.g., God's sovereignty and man's ability to choose a relationship with God; eschatology; use of charismatic gifts, etc. As fellow believers in Jesus Christ, we commit to being gracious towards those who differ in some or all of these convictions. However, we will exhort all members to communicate in a gracious, unifying and Biblical manner. Our goal is to be as gracious and God honoring as possible as we conform our convictions to Scripture.

MODEL

All believers need the support and encouragement of a local body. The church is not our building or our programs. The church is us, united by faith and the Holy Spirit. God is glorified by our commitment to one another as to Him through our fellowship. He testifies to the world of His goodness through our love for one another. He blesses our unity with fruit including the salvation of the lost. Much of the teaching found in the New Testament is difficult, if not impossible, to obey without being committed to a fellowship of like-minded believers.

At Oak Ridge we follow Jesus and fish for men by emphasizing the following essential areas prioritized in the life of our local body:

1. Personal Devotion (Key Verses: [John 15:1-17](#), [Romans 10:8-13](#), [James 1:19-27](#))

At the very foundation of our faith is the necessity for a personal devotion to God. Initiated by our confession with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, our relationship continues to mature as we abide in and glorify the Father. This growth is evident by the fruit we bear as a result of being not just hearers of the word but doers as well.

2. Family Prioritization (Key Verses: [Ephesians 5:22-6:4](#), [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#), [Proverbs 6:20-22](#))

As believers, establishing our Oikos (sphere of relational influence) begins with our families. We value marriage and treasure the blessing of children in our lives. This means prioritizing purposeful devotion and discipleship of the nuclear family through healthy marriages and supporting the parent's ability, in Christ, to train up their children.

3. Sunday Gathering (Key Verses: [Acts 2:42-47](#), [Hebrews 10:19-25](#))

Our Sunday gatherings, or our "church service", are a chance for the body to come together corporately to be devoted to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. This is an opportunity to use our knowledge, skills, and abilities to bring God honor and praise. This is done through our ability to praise Him through songs, teaching of scripture, and testimonies of how God has been working in our lives.

4. Life Groups (Key Verses: [Galatians 6:1-2](#), [Colossians 1:28-29](#), [Hebrews 3:12-14](#))

Life groups are weekly small groups dedicated to building community, and discipling participants to become mature followers of Jesus Christ. Outside of our nuclear families, these groups represent the closest and deepest connections of support and exhortation within ORCC. While these typically meet weekly, engagement and support throughout the week is a key to ensuring that following Jesus and being fishers of men is part of every day walk. Our life group leaders are men and women who have a proven desire to shepherd, serve, and love the members of their group.

5. Ministry Involvement (Key Verses: [Romans 12:1-8](#), [1 Peter 4:8-11](#), [Ephesians 4:11-16](#))

The church is an active and growing body of believers that are to be involved in using our gifts to support the various ministries of the body. Through serving each other we not only deepen our fellowship and support each other's growth to maturity in Christ, but we also provide a testimony to those that witness our service and love.

THE CONGREGATION

Visitors and Guests

All persons, without respect to individually held convictions, are welcome at ORCC events and activities ([Luke 5:31-32](#)). We affirm God's love for all mankind and His call of all people to Himself. We also desire to demonstrate, in example and support, His mercy over all ([1 Timothy 1:15-16](#)). Visitors may communicate with the elders, at their convenience, if they desire to go through the membership process.

Members

Members are those who express a desire to be united with ORCC and are affirmed by the pastors. Members shall acknowledge ORCC's convictions and model (this document) and partner with the church for the goal and benefit of giving God glory, maturing into the likeness of Christ, and advancing His kingdom on earth ([Ephesians 4:1-6](#)). In order to promote a healthy unity and refreshing commitment to our local body, the pastors will initiate opportunities for ORCC membership to be periodically reviewed and affirmed.

Leaders

Leaders are those who have leadership responsibilities in ministry or Life Group and are affirmed by the pastors. Leadership represents a higher standard of relationship, unity, and commitment to the local body; therefore, persons serving as leaders of ORCC, including pastors, deacons, staff, and any other leadership positions designated by the elders must not only affirm the ORCC Statement of Faith, but also affirm our convictions and model (this document).

Deacons

Deacons and deaconesses (used interchangeably, [Romans 16:1](#)) are faithful men and women who accept specific areas of responsibility and/or leadership for a limited term. This is done according to their gifting, skills, availability, and alignment with Scripturally based qualifications which are given in [1 Timothy 3:8-13](#). Ministry involvement does not inherently mean recognition as a deacon as there are numerous ministry volunteers who do not hold the office whose dedicated service is extremely valued.

Pastors

Pastors are men who are called by God to do the work of an overseer. These men have the responsibility and authority to lead the church in all areas. The words 'pastor', 'elder', 'overseer' are Scriptural terms and used interchangeably. Pastors are accountable before God for their role in the church body. Pastors are also accountable to and shepherd one another. Our pastors are raised up by the Holy Spirit and recognized from within the congregation based on their character, leadership and gifting, aligning with Scripturally based qualifications given in [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#) and [Titus 1:6-9](#). Character is the primary basis for elder qualification; although ORCC recognizes and values biblical education, training and practical experience as well.

The pastoral team is also referred to as a plurality, meaning more than one. There is no senior pastor. Each elder is jointly and severally responsible and authoritative in leading our local body. While these men are to be above reproach, as outlined in Scripture, members and visitors are entitled to approach and discuss things with the pastors and should be assured that their conversations will be prayerfully and humbly considered. While the pastors have shepherding authority of the local church they are accountable and submit to the input of the South East Church Alliance (SECA). There are currently two pastors, David Deglau and David Ferguson, who currently serve in a volunteer capacity.