

Faith & Purpose Statement and Spiritual Gifts Policy

Please read Faith and Purpose and the Spiritual Gifts Policy and sign if you can agree to abide by these statements.

Faith and Purpose

We hold these vital beliefs (for a full Statement of Faith, see your manual):

- We believe the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God.
- We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His future bodily return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. It is in His name that repentance and remission of sins are to be preached to all nations.
- We believe that all who put their faith in Christ receive the deposit of the Holy Spirit dwelling in their heart, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing life giving experience available for all believers who ask for it. We believe that regeneration and empowerment by the Holy Spirit is essential for the process of sanctification and moral purity in this life.
- We believe that the only means of personal salvation is faith in Christ, and in Him alone.
- We believe the Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Holy Spirit, with divinely appointed duties for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- We believe in the Ordinances of the Church, observing them as a result of salvation and an answer of a clean conscience toward God.
- We believe in the necessity of pursuing righteousness and benevolence on the part of all Christians, love being a mark of a disciple.

Spiritual Gifts

In order to create and maintain a peaceful theological ethos in BLM, the following practical affirmations can be made:

- That the ministries of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian or within the Body of Christ must not be quenched, lest they become powerless and unproductive (I Thessalonians 5:19-22; Galatians 5:22-23).
- That the ministry of the Holy Spirit includes varieties of gifts, services, and workings, but the same Spirit is at work in all (I Corinthians 12:4-6, 14, 15). Recognition of and respect for the gifts and callings in others is a point of rejoicing, not division. In all things, we should strive to honor the Lord and each other.
- That gifts are given by the Spirit as He wills, in His measure, and at His discretion (I Corinthians 12:4-11, 31). It is incumbent upon the individual believer to desire spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 14:1).
- That the guiding principle which must prevail in the exercise of all gifts within the ministry of BLM and all its outreaches must be a selfless love for people (I Corinthians 13:8-13) and a commitment to not only maintain the unity of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 1-3), but to build up the Body.
- That each member of BLM is expected to ask the Lord for spiritual gifts, and be willing to operate in and minister with the spiritual gifts that He provides.

Therefore, while BLM does not intend to dictate the acquisition of or use of spiritual gifts, we do require that scriptural directives be adhered to in public worship, and that spiritual gifts be allowed for in Christian meetings when the Spirit is moving that direction. God can save and heal, and we should give Him liberty to do what He does.

I have read Faith and Purpose and Spiritual Gifts Policy. I agree to abide by these statements.

Signature _____

Date _____