

GUEST SPEAKER/GUEST WORSHIP LEADER AGREEMENT TO MINISTER AT OTTERBEIN CHURCH

At Otterbein Church, we are committed to share a consistent biblical message that builds up the Body of Christ and helps those who attend become mature reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ. While we recognize that within the Body of Christ there are differing biblical views in some areas of doctrine, we are committed to do all we can to promote unity within the Body of Christ and not do anything that could result in confusion or conflict.

As Elders at Otterbein Church, we have the oversight responsibility of ensuring that those who are communicating God's Word and leading worship at Otterbein are followers of Christ and living a lifestyle consistent with the teachings of the Bible. It is also our responsibility to ensure that those things taught at Otterbein are consistent with the Bible, our Confession of Faith, and Doctrinal Statement. Toward that end, we request that all guest speakers and worship leaders review, sign, and return this document at least three weeks prior to doing ministry at Otterbein Church.

If you have any concerns or questions about this document, please communicate them with the staff person or ministry leader who provided this document to you or you can speak with Senior Pastor Mike Newman. Thank you for taking the time to complete this document and provide the information to us.

*Board of Elders
Otterbein Church*

As a guest speaker/guest worship leader at Otterbein Church, I acknowledge and commit to the following:

- 1) I have made a commitment to be a follower of Jesus Christ (please include a written statement of your testimony with this document).
- 2) I have read Otterbein Church's Confession of Faith and Doctrinal Statement (attached) and have noted on the next page any disagreements or concerns I have with the Confession of Faith and Doctrinal Statements.
- 3) I will not express in my teaching/worship leading while at Otterbein any disagreements or concerns I may have with the beliefs of Otterbein Church, the leadership of Otterbein Church, or the ministry direction of Otterbein Church.
- 4) I acknowledge that my current lifestyle and moral choices are in line with biblical teachings and that I am not currently involved in anything that would bring dishonor or discredit to Otterbein Church or the work of Christ in His Church.

Name (Please Print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

When completed, please return this document to the person who provided it to you or send it to Otterbein Church, 801 Park Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268.

Personal Testimony:

Concerns and/or Disagreements with Otterbein's Confession of Faith and Doctrinal Statements:

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

ABOUT GOD...

We believe that God exists eternally in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that He created this world and sustains it by His power. We believe that God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to save sinners by His atoning death.

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST...

We believe that Jesus was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. While on earth, He was fully God and fully man. Through the power of His teaching and His miracles, He proved Himself to be God.

We believe that Jesus was crucified, that He died, was buried and arose from the dead on the third day. We believe He ascended into heaven where He intercedes for believers before God the Father. We believe He is coming again to take His Church to be with Him.

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT...

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and resides in the heart of every person who has made a commitment to Jesus Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells a person at the moment he commits his life to Jesus Christ.

ABOUT THE CHURCH...

We believe the Church (all Christians) was established for followers of Christ to worship, fellowship, study, pray together, and be a vehicle for being a witness in this world for Jesus Christ. We believe that all followers of Christ should be actively involved in a church.

ABOUT THE BIBLE...

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, written without error, and preserved for our instruction. We believe that it is authoritative, accurate and relevant and is the guide for all of life.

ABOUT SALVATION...

We believe that man was meant to have a perfect communion with God but sin ruined that relationship. The only way for a person to be restored to that right relationship is through the saving power of Jesus Christ. Without this, a person will be eternally separated from God and spend eternity in Hell.

We believe that salvation is based on Christ's work and not on man's effort. Everyone must personally accept this gift of grace through confession, repentance, and commitment to Christ as Savior.

ABOUT BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER...

We believe the Bible clearly teaches the need for followers of Christ to be baptized by water as a symbolic act of their commitment to Christ. We believe the symbolic nature of baptism allows for it to be done by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. We believe infants can be publicly presented to the Lord by their parents and should wait to be baptized when they are able to make a decision of their own to follow Christ.

We believe the Lord's Supper (communion) should be practiced regularly by followers of Christ. We believe the bread symbolizes the body of Christ and the juice symbolizes the blood of Christ.

We believe that both the Lord's Supper and baptism are acts of obedience and expressions of love for Christ. In no way does either of these acts provide any special grace to those who participate or assure one of a proper relationship with Jesus Christ.

OTHER DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS

ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY AND FREE WILL...

We believe God made mankind to have a free will to follow God and receive Jesus as their Savior or to reject God and follow their own desires. God plays an important role in bringing a person to a relationship with Jesus Christ, but the ultimate decision to follow is left to man.

We believe a person can rest assured in his faith in Christ and not “fear” he may lose his salvation with every sin he commits after becoming a follower of Christ. Obedience to God’s Word and a desire to please God ought to characterize the life of every Christian. Any person whose life does not characterize what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ ought to examine his life to determine the sincerity of his initial commitment to Christ.

ABOUT JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION...

We believe that when a person receives the gift of Jesus Christ in his life and turns over control of his life to Jesus, God sees him differently. He sees him “as though he has no sin” and as righteous and pure and worthy to spend his eternity in heaven in the presence of God. This is called Justification and the Bible clearly states that we are justified through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

From a human perspective, a person still sins after committing his life to Christ. The goal of every believer should be to become conformed to the image of Christ. This act of becoming more and more conformed to Jesus is called Sanctification and is a life-long process of obedience and growth. The goal of every believer should be to sin less and less as he matures in his faith.

ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS...

We believe God gives every believer at least one spiritual gift at the time of his conversion to be used for ministry to others. We believe every spiritual gift outlined in the Bible is to be used for the purpose of exalting Christ, building up others, and unifying the church for its purpose of evangelism and outreach. At Otterbein, we do not teach or practice “supernatural or charismatic” gifts in our worship or public gatherings.

We also believe that spiritual gifts are just one component of a person’s life that God gives to help a person be effective in ministry. Other components include one’s experiences, personality, passion, and natural abilities. All of these, along with a person’s spiritual gift(s), allow for followers of Christ to effectively serve others in the body (church) and share the message of Jesus in our communities and world.

ABOUT TITHING AND GIVING...

We believe tithing is primarily an Old Testament principle. We believe giving sacrificially of our time and money is essential in the life of every believer and a matter of obedience to God. Principles throughout the Old and New Testaments suggest that how we spend our money demonstrates to God where our heart is, the priority we give God and our relationship with Jesus Christ in contrast to the world.

Hence we suggest as a foundation, a person should give “10 percent plus other gifts” to God as God blesses him /her to do so.

ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES...

We believe the Bible clearly addresses many of the social issues and ills of our contemporary society including abortion, divorce, remarriage, illicit sexual relationships, homosexuality, murder, and drunkenness. We believe God’s plan and His spoken Word as recorded in the Bible are for all times and all generations and, thus, do not allow persons to excuse their behavior.

For those issues not clearly outlined in the Bible, we believe God allows for principles of Scripture, the wisdom of mature and godly leaders within the church, and the work of the Holy Spirit within a believer’s life to guide a believer toward making decisions that are appropriate for his life. It should be noted that the Bible does allow for differing views on issues not clearly outlined in the Bible. Believers are admonished to be cautious in their attitudes and view of such issues when participating in them.