

Explanation of the CareNet / PCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the authority of Scripture, which is another way of saying that the Bible is the only inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. It's the ultimate source of knowledge about God, as well as the definitive guide for our daily lives.

Commentary: The Bible is altogether true because it is revelation from God (2 Tim. 3:16). Therefore, it is the final rule of belief and conduct over the life of the believer and actions of the ministry.

Care Net does not recognize the validity or truth of extra-biblical sources of revelation, such as the Book of Mormon or other so-called Scriptures. The 66 canonical books of the Bible are our final authority.

2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Commentary: No one denying the Trinity (Matt. 28:19) should be allowed to serve in the pregnancy care center ministry. Some groups deny the existence of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit as distinct persons, opting instead for the belief that these are mere manifestations or forms in which God reveals Himself ("Oneness Pentecostalism," for instance). Other groups, including Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, deny the absolute deity of Christ (John 1:1, 14; Rom. 9:5). Only those individuals who affirm the traditional orthodox teaching of the Trinity and who attend a church that proclaims the same are qualified to serve in a local pregnancy care center.

3. 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 through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

Commentary: Acceptance of the historical facts of the gospel is essential for true faith (1 Cor. 15:1-6). Regardless of their claims of allegiance, persons who deny, or doubt the physical resurrection of Christ or the other miraculous facts of His life as presented in the Bible, should not be permitted to serve in the ministry.

4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential, and that the salvation is received through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and not as a result of good works.

Commentary: The Apostle Paul reserved his harshest warning for those who abandoned, added to, or distorted the gospel he preached (Gal. 1:8-10). These warnings were necessary because of the tendency within men and women to deny that their condition before God is so wretched, so hopeless and futile that they can do nothing to please God or earn His favor (Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18-32; 3:1-19). Denying their hopeless position, they distort the gospel into a "faith plus" proposition in which God provides a measure of mercy, but it is up to men and women to complete what is necessary for salvation through works of righteousness.

Care Net also rejects the unbiblical teaching of universalism, which teaches that in the end all men and women will be saved and spend eternity in heaven (see point 6). An act of God, leading to profession of belief, is necessary for salvation. Care Net also believes that no salvation is available apart from specific belief in Jesus Christ.

5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life and to perform good works.

Commentary: Although good works are not a means of salvation, they are the fruit, or result of salvation. After stating that salvation is by grace through faith, the apostle Paul immediately went on to admonish the Ephesians: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which He prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). Genuine faith is always accompanied by works of faith. James said, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:17).

The Holy Spirit is present in the life of every believer. Although there is controversy over the nature and expressions of the Spirit’s work within the church, this controversy has no place in the pregnancy care center ministry. A believer’s position on charismatic worship and practices should not be a determining factor on whether he or she may volunteer. However, those who engage in divisive dialogue should be admonished to refrain from such activity.

6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Commentary: Heaven and hell are both realities taught by our Lord (Matt. 25:31ff.). Understanding the eternal consequences of unbelief is especially important in the pregnancy care center ministry because of our commitment to evangelism. We are concerned not only with the life and death of unborn children, but with the eternal destiny of our clients.

Care Net rejects universalism (that everyone ends up in heaven) and annihilation (that some souls are destroyed and do not spend eternity in hell). Because of this belief, evangelism has a very high priority in our ministry.

7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Commentary: While there are many local expressions of the body of Christ, the Church is one (Eph. 4:1-7). Because of this spiritual unity of believers, Care Net and its affiliate centers are inclusive in allowing Bible believing Christians from different denominations and Church traditions to serve. Working together with believers from many different backgrounds is an especially gratifying aspect of the pregnancy care center ministry.

By signing this I acknowledge that at least two pregnancy care center representatives have reviewed this document with me, and that I am in full agreement with the Statement of Faith of the Pregnancy Care Centers of the North Willamette Valley.

Applicant Signature

Date

Interview Team Initials

Executive Director _____

Center Director _____

Board Member _____