

## **The Orthodox Congregational Church in Lanesville Doctrinal Convictions**

### Trinitarian

- We believe that the mode of the divine existence is such as lays a foundation for a distinction into three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and that these three are one in essence, and equal in power and glory.

### Evangelical

- In the traditional, non-political sense emphasizing the inspiration and the authority of the Bible as the foundation of all salvific truth, personal conversion, salvation through Christ alone, and the public preaching of the Word of God.

### Congregational

- Pertaining or adhering to a form of church government in which each local church acts as an independent, self-governing body while maintaining fellowship with like-minded congregations.

### Statement of Faith

- The candidate has to be in complete agreement with the statement of faith.

### Reformed Distinctives (the pastor must be supportive of these distinctives but respectful of other interpretations of Scripture)

- **Covenant Theology**
  - Covenant Theology is a hermeneutic that recognizes the unity and continuity of the Scriptures with the covenant form as central to our understanding of the Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation of God's creation.
- **Sacraments**
  - Because of the focus on covenant, covenant theology stresses the covenantal nature of both baptism and the Lord's Supper. These sacraments are signs and seals of the covenant of grace but in of themselves are not salvific.
    - **Baptism**
      - While traditionally this church has held to infant baptism, the pastor shall be sympathetic in practice to both infant baptism and believer's baptism. Baptism is incorporation into the new covenant of Christ's community by the grace of God.
    - **Paedo-Communion**
      - Modeled on the Mosaic Covenant and the invitation of children to the covenant meal, we welcome baptized children to partake of the Lord's Supper with parents administering the sacrament to their children.
- **Women in Leadership**
  - We believe the Bible allows for women to serve in the role of church leadership, therefore we find it important for the pastor to hold to an egalitarian viewpoint within the context of the church.
- **Eschatology**
  - We hold to an amillennial understanding where Christ rules in the present age until his return when history will be consummated, the great judgment occurs, and the eternal state begins.
- **Pneumatology**
  - The Holy Spirit working through the Word, supernaturally regenerates the hearts of God's people by making them alive what was spiritually dead. The Spirit convicts us of sin, leads us to repentance, causes us to grow in holiness, seals for the day of redemption that we might be assured of our salvation, and equips us with spiritual gifts for the building up of the body.
  - We believe in a single baptism of the Spirit, which occurs at regeneration. While we are not cessationists, we do we do acknowledge a difference between the foundational miracles of Christ and the Apostles and the miracles of the modern era. The Holy Spirit continues his work to validate the gospel, regenerate believers, to sanctify, to comfort, to heal, and to indwell. The Spirit teaches, bears witness, convicts, directs, commands, calls, sends, intercedes, and guides.