

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1. The basis of faith shall be the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed in Holy Scripture, including:*
- 2. The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead;*
- 3. The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment;*
- 4. The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct;*
- 5. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering all subject to God's wrath and condemnation;*
- 6. The full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God; His virgin birth and His real and sinless humanity; His death on the cross, His bodily resurrection and His present reign in heaven and earth;*
- 7. Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and people;*
- 8. Justification as God's act of undeserved mercy, in which sinners are pardoned all their sins, and accepted as righteous in God's sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, this justification being received by faith alone;*
- 9. The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting them repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ*
- 10. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all those thus regenerated, producing in them an increasing likeness to Christ in character and behaviour, and empowering them for their witness in the world;*
- 11. The one holy universal Church, which is the Body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong;*
- 12. The future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge all people, executing God's just condemnation on the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.*

## STATEMENT OF UNITY

Transformations Leeds works with Christians from a variety of denominational and independent churches. We want to respect this diversity and maintain our unity. We do not want differences on secondary doctrinal issues to detract from our mission. Rather, we urge all volunteers and partners to, firstly, concentrate on the goals of Transformations Leeds: evangelism, discipleship and preparing international students to be godly influencers in their home country; and, secondly, to take care that no offence is given to volunteers, partner churches or international students due to secondary differences. To assist with this unity we have produced this document to clarify what it means in practice, both for Transformations Leeds (staff, trustees and interns) as well as those volunteering with us.

### **To maintain unity Transformations Leeds will operate in the following way:**

- 1. The Statement of Faith represents the essential truths of the Gospel that are basic for our ministry. As such, it is the doctrinal base to which all Transformations Leeds volunteers must assent and which all partner churches have agreed to.*
- 2. We recognise and respect the divergence of Biblical interpretation and practices amongst evangelical Christians. As long as these differences do not conflict with the Statement of Faith, or cause divisiveness, they are not a barrier to becoming a Transformations Leeds volunteer*

### **To maintain unity we ask volunteers, staff, trustees and interns, to act in the following way:**

- 3. To avoid, when volunteering with Transformations Leeds, emphasising aspects of doctrine on which there may be disagreement, such as mode of baptism, current use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the role of women in leadership. If such questions arise for any reason, to deal with them in ways which respect varying points of view and avoid disunity.*
- 4. When connecting with international students, for example through Explore or the Living Room, to always try to discover if they have already built relationships with Christians from another church and/or attended another church. If so, to show respect for the efforts of*

*those Christians by not deliberately trying to take international students away from such relationships or their church. If international students, of their own will, change their church connection, then communication will be made with the leaders of the other church to make an effort to maintain unity.*

- 5. To avoid any talk or written communication, whether with students, other team members or third parties, which criticises the doctrine, politics or behaviour of any other Transformations Leeds volunteer or church represented. Instead, to seek to respect, affirm and encourage all volunteers and participating churches. In other words do not write or say anything you would not be happy for others to hear you say or read.*
- 6. To discreetly bring any concerns about the doctrine or behaviour of any volunteer or their church, to the official leadership of whatever context the volunteering is taking place in, e.g. Explore, Living Room etc. If you are unhappy with the response, then bring it to the Director's attention and, if that does not satisfy, please communicate with the trustees.*