

Statement of Beliefs for Spiritual Directors and all Tres Dias Members

Approved by the Secretariat 6/18/05

The Christian motto that might best describe the spirit of Tres Dias is *“In essentials unity, in nonessentials diversity, in all things love.”* As a community of faith we draw support from a wide purpose to dictate doctrinal beliefs to those who are part of Tres Dias. Our purpose is to teach and encourage Christians to take an active part in their local church and to impact their environment for Christ. In light of this we feel it is important for Spiritual Directors and all Tres Dias Members, to subscribe to certain very basic Christian beliefs in order to help the rectors lead the weekend.

Tres Dias is a movement that draws leadership, candidates, support and ideas from across the spectrum of Christianity. Because Tres Dias seeks to nurture lay leadership from a wide variety of sources, it is important that what we teach be compatible with those sources.

Therefore we expect and require that all talks, meditations and personal counseling center on those elements of the Christian faith that have been held by all Christian traditions at all times in all places. Those elements include but are not limited to:

- WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD. It is our final authority in all matters of faith and life.
 - WE BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY. One God, eternally existing in three persons. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - WE BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his vicarious and atoning death, in his resurrection and in his ascension to the right hand of the Father.
 - WE BELIEVE IN THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH, in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, throughout all time and in all places.
1. We believe and profess our faith in one Triune God - The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).
 2. We believe and profess that Jesus Christ is the only Savior and is God in the flesh (John 1:1, 1:14, 3:36, 14: & Heb. 2:17).
 3. We believe and profess that The Holy Spirit is God and is The Lord and Giver of life, who continues to work in believers today to sanctify, edify and empower the whole Christian church on earth - - - for His purpose (Job 33:4, Acts 1:8, John 14:26 & Rom. 8:11).
 4. We believe and profess that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired and completely true Word of God (II Tim. 3:16-17).
 5. We believe and profess that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; that forgiveness of sins is received through confession and repentance - - and that our sins are washed away through the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38, I John 1:9 & Rom. 3:23).

6. We believe and profess that salvation is a gift of God's grace received through personal faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8).
7. We believe and profess that the Body of Christ is to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of The Son of God (Eph. 4:3, 13).
8. We believe and profess that God's unconditional love, as made manifest to us through Jesus Christ, is the primary witness by which people are renewed, edified and changed (I Cor. 13:8).
9. We believe and profess that God has called us to live holy lives that will bring glory to His name (Col. 3:1-25).

Teachings that are outside the realm of the universal truths held by all Christian traditions at all times in all places are not to be included in talks, meditations, or personal counseling. The following are some areas of concern that have been raised or are being raised in some circles today that are not to be promoted at Tres Dias events:

- + Salvation apart from a faith-relationship with Christ.
- + Addressing God or any person of the Trinity with feminine names or pronouns.
- + Acceptance of sexual relationships outside the context of lifelong marriage between one man and one woman.

We recognize that individuals within the Tres Dias community may have a variety of beliefs concerning these issues or may be part of faith communities that are open to this type of "experimental theology." This statement is not intended to govern what is considered or taught by individuals or faith communities beyond the Tres Dias setting.

We also recognize that candidates may come with questions or beliefs concerning these or other issues. This statement is not intended to prohibit candidates from raising these issues.

(This statement was written and is endorsed by the Vermont Tres Dias Spiritual Directors Advisory Team: Paul Ciampaglia, Jim Proctor and Ron Rilling)