Appendix C
Doctrinal Statements on Jesus Christ

<u>The following is from my ordination council doctrinal paper in 2006:</u>

CHRISTOLOGY

I believe that Christ existed eternally as the second person of the Trinity and the divine Logos before his incarnation (Mic 5:2; John 1:1-3; Phil 2:5-7). He is coequal (John 10:30) and coeternal (John 8:58) with the Father; he is eternally God (John 13:19; 17:1, 5, 24). The eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ (Matt 1:23). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matt 1:20) and born of a virgin (Isa 7:14) to preserve Him from original sin (John 3:6), to save mankind from sin (Matt 1:21), and fulfill OT prophecy (Matt 1:22-23).

At the incarnation Christ voluntarily humbled himself by adding to His fully divine nature (Col 2:9) a fully human nature (1 Tim 2:5), taking on the likeness of sinful man in order to accomplish the redemptive plan of God (Isa 53; Phil 2:5-8). In this voluntary humiliation Christ set aside His right to the full prerogatives of coexistence with God (Phil 2:6-7), living as a servant and dying as a criminal (Phil 2:8-9), while never divesting Himself of the divine essence or His divine attributes (Col 1:19; 2:9). In the Person of Christ God and man are united without any mingling or confusion of the two natures so He is forever fully human and fully divine (Phil 2:5-8; 1 Tim 2:5), the God-man. By virtue of His divine and indivisible person, Christ has no sin nature (2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15), and remains eternally incapable of sinning (Heb 13:8).

Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, keeping the divine law perfectly on our behalf by His personal, active obedience (John 15:10; Rom 5:19), restoring the believer to favor with God through the imputation of Christ's righteousness (Rom 5:12-19). His one-time (Heb 9:28) genuine (Matt 27:50) death on the cross was in fulfillment of the eternal plan of God (Acts 2:23; Rev 13:8). Christ's death was a vicarious atonement for the sin of man (1 John 2:2), fully paying the penalties of God's broken law of holiness (Heb 10:4-10), providing pardon and forgiveness to the believer (Col 1:14). Christ's death is of infinite value, sufficient for the sins of the world (Isa 53:6; 1 John 2:2; John 1:29) but applied only to the elect (2 Thess 2:13; 1 Tim 4:10) in expiating guilt (Eph 5:2), redeeming from bondage (Eph 1:7), propitiating wrath (1 John 2:2), and reconciling enmity (Isa 59:2). By virtue of His perfect sacrifice (Heb 1:3; 10:12; 12:2) Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5) so that the one true God can only be approached through Jesus Christ (John 5:23; 17:3; Acts 4:12; Heb 10:19-22).

Jesus Christ rose miraculously and bodily on the third day (Luke 24:39; 1 Cor 15:4). He ascended visibly and bodily into heaven (Acts 1:11) and then sent the Holy Spirit (John 15:26). Christ presently intercedes for all the saints (Rom 8:34), who wait for his return for them (1 Thess 4:16) and the establishment of the messianic kingdom (Mark 14:25; Rev 19:11ff).

The following is from the doctrinal statement of Orwell Bible Church:

Section 3: Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 5:17-18; 10:36). As God the Son He is coequal (John 10:30) and coeternal (John 8:58) with the Father. The eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ (Matt 1:23), having been conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matt 1:20) and born of a virgin (Isa 7:14), so that He was and is sinless (Heb 4:15; 13:8). In the Person of Christ God and man are united with no mingling or confusion of the two natures so He is forever fully human and fully divine (Phil 2:5-8; 1 Tim 2:5).

Jesus Christ kept the divine law perfectly on our behalf by His personal obedience (John 15:10; Rom 5:19). His death on the cross (Matt 27:50) was a one-time (Heb 9:28) substitutionary sacrifice (Gal 1:4; 2:20) that fully satisfied God's wrath toward sin (1 John 2:2). This sacrifice was sufficient for the sin of all mankind (Isa 53:6; John 1:29; 1 John 2:2) but is effective only for those who receive Christ with repentant faith (2 Thess 2:13; 1 Tim 4:10).

Jesus Christ rose miraculously and bodily on the third day (Luke 24:39; 1 Cor 15:4) and forty days later visibly ascended into heaven (Acts 1:11). He presently intercedes for all the saints (Rom 8:34), who wait for His return for them (1 Thess 4:13-18) and the establishment of His kingdom (Rev 19-20).