

Position Paper: Distinguishing CMDA's Statement of Faith from Mormon Beliefs and Addressing Mormon Involvement

Introduction

This position paper aims to clarify the distinctions between the Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA) statement of faith (which aligns with orthodox Christian beliefs as outlined in our doctrinal statement) and Mormon (LDS) beliefs. Additionally, it will outline the parameters for Mormon involvement within our work and ministry.

Distinctions Between CMDA's Statement of Faith and Mormon Beliefs

That the LDS church and its doctrine are markedly different from every Christian denomination is well-known among theologians, LDS and otherwise. Mormon theologians themselves understand that these differences are critically important, for instance in their scripture known as the "Doctrine and Covenants", we read that the LDS church is "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth." (D&C 1:30)

1. Nature of God:

- **CMDA:** Believes in the Trinity—one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **Mormonism:** Teaches that God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy "Ghost" are three separate beings, yet united in purpose.

2. Scripture:

- **CMDA:** Holds the Bible alone as authoritative scripture.
- **Mormonism:** Accepts 4 books as scripture: the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price.
- The first point of our CMDA statement of faith (i.e., "In the divine inspiration and final authority of the Bible as the Word of God.") is not compatible with Mormon beliefs: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God." LDS offer unique translations of the Bible and additional texts serving as "the word of God."

3. Salvation:

- **CMDA:** Believes salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- **Mormonism:** Teaches a combination of faith, repentance, baptism, and good works for salvation.

- Mormonism states, “We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.” In contrast CMDA affirms “grace through faith” in Jesus Christ, whereas the LDS understands the atonement through the lens of “obedience to the laws and ordinances.”

4. **Afterlife:**

- **CMDA:** Believes in heaven and hell as eternal destinations based on one’s faith in Christ.
- **Mormonism:** Teaches a tiered afterlife with three degrees of glory and the potential for exaltation to godhood.

Based on the above summary, a Mormon may not, with integrity, be able to affirm and sign off on CMDA’s Statement of Faith

Parameters for Mormon Involvement

5. **Attendance, Membership and Leadership:**

- **Attendance:** All CMDA events and meetings are open to all therefore LDS members are welcome at CMDA events and meetings.
- **Membership:** Because LDS members cannot in good conscience sign onto our Statement of Faith, they may not be qualified for membership
- **Leadership Positions:** Because LDS members cannot be members of CMDA they therefore may not occupy positions of leadership.

6. **Collaboration on Social Issues:**

- **Advocacy and Service:** CMDA encourages cooperation with Mormons in areas of shared ethical and moral concerns, such as medical ethics, issues of life and Right of Conscience.
- **Respect and Distinctness:** CMDA emphasizes mutual respect while maintaining clear boundaries regarding doctrinal differences.

7. **Scholarships and Service Opportunities:**

- **Eligibility:** Open to all students, but leadership roles and scholarships are contingent on adherence to CMDA’s core beliefs.
- **Engagement:** CMDA is open to participation from Mormon students in non-leadership capacities, fostering collegiality yet always maintaining our distinctness.

Conclusion: CMDA accepts and welcomes all religions, faiths, and people (including LDS), to attend CMDA events. CMDA is also open to collaborative endeavors with other faiths when we share common goals, i.e. [the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine](#). At the same time, the core doctrinal differences between CMDA's Statement of Faith and LDS teaching exclude Mormons from all CMDA leadership positions and CMDA scholarships.

Attribution and Further Resources:

The Church of Latter-Day Saints' Articles of Faith (<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist/article/articles-of-faith>)

CMDA's Leadership Form (which also includes our Statement of Faith) - [Leadership Forms for CMDA – Christian Medical & Dental Associations® \(CMDA\)](#)

Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine (AHM) - [Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine](#)