

---

# David & Susan Craton Ministry Calling

---



Be Thoroughly Practical, Perfectly Natural,  
and Completely Spiritual.

---

---

# Statement of Faith

## What we have come to believe

Through prayer, Biblical studies, many talks around the table, and wisdom from our mentors, this is a basic statement of our faith. There are six basic components to this that we see all based upon the greatest commandment to love the Lord and our neighbor. The scriptural and functional foundations begin in Acts 2: 42-47 with four wonderful statements of faith found in verse 42:

1. They (the believers) were devoted to the teaching of the apostles: in our culture, they were devoted to the study of scripture.
2. They were devoted to fellowship: that being fellowship with God and our Christian family with mercy and grace as well as bringing those outside the church to a safe place.
3. They were devoted to the breaking of bread: they shared meals together as well as remembering the Lord's Supper.
4. They were devoted to prayer: communication with God, prayer for all people.

The fifth component and a most important part of the life of a Christian is found throughout scripture in a variety of forms, but most adequately described in Ephesians 5: 18-20. This would be Holy Spirit filled worship in full freedom from the constraints of man's law under the grace and mercy of God. Having the freedom to worship is a blessing in our country, and being free to worship God puts us in a place of growth and reception of His Spirit.

The sixth and final component for foundation is the maturation of the believer via the restoration of the soul, the renewal of the mind, and the washing of the Holy Spirit as found in Psalm 23: 3, Romans 12: 1-2, Ephesians 4: 22-24, and Titus 3: 4-7. The beauty of our God is that he has made every effort to give us forgiveness, wholeness, and abundant lives full of His Spirit.

Finally, in this day and age of performance orientated lifestyles with so many unrealistic demands, laws, and expectations placed upon us by well meaning people, we have chosen to be a Spirit Led ministry. After careful examination of Scripture, we realize, that we do not have the resources to complete the work that God has called us to do in His Kingdom. We choose the Lucan/Paul model to first wait on the Lord for His understanding, maturation, and depth. Secondly, we choose to be filled with the foundations of Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and the experience of God moving through the church in each age. Thirdly, we choose to be led by that same Holy Spirit, the same Holy Scriptures, and experience of God speaking to His people over the ages. Finally, we choose to allow God to empower us to do His work, for He is all things to all peoples. God does not look at the outward appearance of a person, but rather at their heart. With that said, I leave you with this from Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Simply put, freedom from the Law and freedom from the ways of the world. We have found tremendous freedom in Christ by his final and complete work on the cross.

If you need more information concerning our beliefs, please contact us.

---

# Praise & Worship

## Purpose, Function, and Operation

### **Purpose**

1. To enter into the presence of God.
2. To state who He is, what He does, and our relationship with Him.
3. To join in with the worship that is already in heaven.
4. To enter into the Sabbath rest.
5. To allow God to move by His Spirit with His love, gifts, and fruit.

### **Function**

1. To provide music that is acceptable for our culture and our time.
2. To provide an understanding of biblical worship.
2. To provide an understanding of Church history with regards to worship.
3. To use hymns as well as modern choruses.

### **Operation**

1. Teach biblical worship through seminars, special classes, and/or brief teaching during worship.
2. Utilize instrumentation, song writing, and arrangements that are appropriate for the needs of the people.
3. To coordinate music with teaching/preaching content and the overall goals and direction of the church/ministry while maintaining the freedom of the Spirit (refer to page one)
4. To allow prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing with oil as a part of the worship experience.

---

# Calling

## Call of God

David is called of God to pastor and lead worship through teaching the Word of God taking the original languages, exegesis, historical content, and application for today and presenting the meaning and message of scripture in an everyday language for every man via music, teaching, and preaching. We believe that the Word of God is alive and opens the ears, heart, and soul of man forever touching, changing, and renewing life.

Susan is called of God to teach children in the public school system. She holds her degree in Early Childhood and received several awards for her efforts: George Washington Medal, 1997 (Tulsa Public Schools), Teacher of the Year Candidate, 1996-1997 (State of Oklahoma), Humanitarian of the Year, 1989 (Sapulpa Public Schools). Susan is now the lead Kindergarten teacher, Master Teacher, and Mentor Teacher for Rogers Public Schools in Rogers, AR.

David & Susan are called of God to minister in music through praise, worship, hymns, and original songs. We believe that the presence of the Holy Spirit of God is not only necessary, but shall pour forth from a generous Father. As a part of the worship experience, we believe that all of the gifts and fruit of the Spirit shall accompany His presence for he loves to give to His people. As a ministering couple, we are simply joining in what is already taking place in heaven, "your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

David & Susan believe in prayer including the laying on of hands and anointing with oil as a part of the worship experience. And again, we believe that our Father wants and loves to give to His people. It is He who ministers through His Spirit to His children by means of His grace.

This is not who we are, but rather Whom we are involved in with. He is our source of ministry as He is the one ministering. We are His hands, His mouth, and His feet. We trust in His heart, His Spirit, and His love for people to minister His grace.

We are called to go to the church and outside the walls of the church to bring hope, healing, and the love of God. We have traveled all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, and Europe endeavoring to show by example, word, and song God's marvelous grace.

## David B. Craton Resume

### OBJECTIVE

---

1. To maintain the greatest commandments both in purpose and in function fostering a community of love for God and love for one another.
2. To reach people for the purpose of providing an environment where one can receive the love and grace of God via preaching/teaching the Scriptures, mentoring, maturation of the saints, and worshipping the Father.

### EXPERIENCE

---

- 2000 to 2003 First United Methodist Church Springdale, AR**  
*Worship Leader / Teaching Pastor*
- Contemporary Worship Leader for the 9:45 service integrating modern worship music, graphic and video support, dance, and drama for a 2500 member church.
  - Wrote worship music and arrangements for CCM worship as well as taking traditional hymns and arranging them in a palate for today's culture.
  - Filled pulpit as needed for preaching the Word of God as well as teaching weekly discipleship groups.
  - Provided pastoral care in area of adult ministry.
- 1996-2000 Cedar Heights Covenant Church Tulsa, OK**  
*Associate Pastor / Worship Leader*
- Contemporary / Blended Worship Leader for the worship service utilizing modern worship music, hymns, and choruses for a 250 member church.
  - Wrote worship music and arrangements for CCM worship as well as taking traditional hymns and arranging them in a palate for today's culture.
  - Filled pulpit as needed for preaching the Word of God as well as pastoring/teaching adult ministry.
- 1994-1996 Asbury United Methodist Church Tulsa, OK**  
*Worship Leader*
- Contemporary / Blended Worship Leader for the worship service utilizing modern worship music, hymns, and choruses for a 5000 member church.
  - Used blended style service for seekers on Saturday night
  - Teaching & Music Ministry of David and Susan outside the walls of the church.
- 1992-1994 St. James United Methodist Church Tulsa, OK**  
*Worship Leader / Staff Teacher*
- Contemporary / Blended Worship Leader for the worship service utilizing modern worship music, hymns, and choruses for Sunday morning and Saturday night services for a 2000 member church.
  - Taught Adult Education on Sunday mornings and Wednesday Nights.
  - Teaching & Music Ministry of David and Susan outside the walls of the church.
- 1984-1991 Living Fellowship Tulsa, OK**  
*Senior Pastor*
- Senior Pastor of growing church of 200 in attendance.
  - Oversee the daily operation of the church via pastoral care and worship.
  - Pastoral care for the congregation.

### EDUCATION

---

**1997, B. A. New York State University Albany, NY**  
1985 Scholar of the Year, Oral Roberts University  
3.4 Cumulative G.P.A.