



## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The following Statement of Faith outlines the basics of the Christian faith. These truths must be wholeheartedly affirmed for membership in this local church. Such affirmation will allow for mutual ministry and respect within this local body and within the broader universal Church. The truths herein are the foundation for unity among true believers and a protection against heresy. For verse references and further study on these essentials, the corresponding sections of the Doctrinal Statement can be referenced. That Doctrinal Statement provides a fuller formulation and expansion of the truths upheld and taught in this local church.

### **The Holy Scriptures**

We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to mankind (humanity), and thus the sixty-six books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God. The Word of God is an objective revelation, inspired in every word, absolutely without error in the original documents, infallible, authoritative and God-breathed. The Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice for the Christian.

### **God**

We believe that there is only one living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, One in essence, eternally existing in three Persons (the Trinity)—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—each equally deserving worship and obedience.

### **God the Father**

We believe that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, is the Creator of all things and the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler. He is holy and sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.

### **God the Son**

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine essence and attributes, and in these He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father. Our Lord Jesus Christ was virgin-born and God incarnate (fully God and fully man) and He is absolutely sinless. He is also the sole "Mediator between God and men," the head of His body the church, the coming universal King who will reign forever, and the Judge of all mankind.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His sacrificial death on the cross and that His death was voluntary, vicarious, substitutionary, propitiatory, and

redemptive. This redemptive work frees the believing sinner from the punishment, penalty, power, and ultimately the presence of sin; and it grants justification and eternal life.

We believe that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of His Son and gave proof that God has accepted the atoning work of Christ on the cross. Jesus' bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all believers. Jesus Christ will return in a yet future Second Coming.

### **God the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person possessing all the attributes of personality and deity and is co-equal with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit executes the divine will with relation to all mankind and His sovereign activity is seen in creation, revelation, the incarnation, and the work of salvation. The Holy Spirit is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ and granting them spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers for service, and seals unto the day of redemption all believers.

### **Man (Mankind, Humanity)**

We believe that the first man and woman (Adam and Eve) were directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. They were created free of sin, with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God. When Adam sinned by disobeying the revealed will and Word of God, the innocence of humanity was lost. Thereby, humans incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death, became subject to the wrath of God, and became inherently corrupt and unable to rescue themselves from this horribly lost state. God designed marriage to be only between one man and one woman and any sexual relationship outside of the husband-wife relationship constitutes immorality.

### **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is wholly of God by grace through the work of the Spirit on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, and not on the basis of human merit or works. Everyone is responsible to respond to God as He commands. We respond in faith by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and thereby gain justification before God.

We believe that justification before God is an act of God by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins and confess Him as Lord. This righteousness is apart from any virtue or human work and involves (1) the placing of our sins on Christ who paid the punishment for those sins in His death and (2) the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us.

We believe that the result of justification is progressive sanctification, the process by which the believer grows in obedience to the Word of God. Though every believer is involved in a daily conflict against sin, adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

## **The Church**

We believe that all who trust in Jesus Christ are immediately placed into one united spiritual body, the church, of which Christ is the Head and the One Supreme Authority. Christ's guidelines for church life are found in the Scriptures. The church is to glorify God by building itself up in the faith, by instruction of the Word, by fellowship and prayer, by keeping the ordinances and by proclaiming the gospel to the entire world. All saints are called to minister according to their gifts.

We believe two ordinances (regular ceremonies) have been committed to the local church: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Neither baptism nor the partaking of the Lord's Supper has any merit in helping a person obtain eternal life.

## **Last Things (Eschatology)**

We believe that physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness and that redeemed souls go into the presence of Christ and lost souls go into punishment. In the future, every soul will be rejoined with a resurrected body to enter the eternal state, which for the saved is eternal life in God's presence, and for the unsaved is judgment and everlasting punishment. We believe in the personal future return of our Lord Jesus Christ.