

## Adopted Statement of Faith (October 28, 2018)

**1. The Word of God:** We believe that the Bible is the revealed Word of God, fully and verbally inspired, written under the direction of the Holy Spirit. We believe it is without error in the original manuscripts and is true and trustworthy in all that it asserts. It has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Deut 29:29; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21; 1 Sam 15:29; Ps 19:7-11, 119:130; Rom 15:4; Josh 1:8; Deut 6:6-7; John 8:31-32, 19:35, 20:31; Heb 4:12

**2. The Trinity:** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

Deut 6:4; Isa 44:6; Gen 1:1-2; Rom 1:20; John 1:1-3, 10:30; 1 Cor 8:6; 2 Cor 13:14; Col 1:15, 2:9; Luke 1:35; Matt 3:16-17, 28:19; 1 Pet 1:2; John 14:16-17, 16:13-15; Eph 4:4-6

**3. God the Father:** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Rom 11:33-36; 1 Tim 6:15-16; Isa 6:3; Dan 7:9-10; Matt 23:9; Eph 1:3,17-19; John 1:18, 4:24; 1 Pet 1:3; Rom 1:7; 1 Tim 1:1-2, 2:1-6; Jer 33:3; Phil 4:6-7; Luke 10:21-22; John 3:16, 6:40; Eph 2:4-6

**4. God the Son:** We believe in Jesus Christ, existing eternally as God's Son. In His incarnation, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, led a sinless life, performed miracles, and taught with authority. We believe in his substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. We believe that he was fully God and fully human.

John 1:1, 14, 18, 8:58; Rev 1:4, 17-18, 22:13; Dan 7:13-14; Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Heb 4:25; 1 Pet 2:21-23; Acts 2:22; John 3:2, 20:30-31; Mark 1:27; Matt 7:28-29; Isa 53:5; 2 Cor 5:21; Matt 20:28; Rom 5:6-8; Mark 16:6; Matt 28:5-6; Rom 6:9-10; 1 Tim 3:16; Acts 1:9; Heb 1:3; Eph 1:20-21; 1 John 2:1; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25, 9:28; Acts 1:11; Rev 1:5-7, 20:20; Rom 9:5; John 20:28; Phil 2:6-11; Heb 2:14-18

**5. God the Holy Spirit:** We believe in the Holy Spirit, who was sent by the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

John 14:16-17, 26, 15:26, 16:7-16; Matt 3:11; John 3:5, 6:63; Rom 8:2; Tit 3:5-6; 1 Cor 6:11; 1 Pet 1:2; 2 Thess 2:13; Rom 8:11-14, 26-27; Acts 1:8; Gal 5:22-25; 1 John 4:13; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 2:10-16, 3:16, 6:19; John 14:26

**6. Angels:** We believe that angels are a distinct order of created spiritual beings; that they can appear in human form; that good angels minister to human beings and serve God as special messengers; that Satan, a fallen angel, and his evil angels (i.e. demons) whom he leads, exercise great but limited evil power in the world, and will suffer final defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ps 148:2; Isa 6:2-3; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Neh 9:6; Luke 1:11-13, 2:8-15; Dan 10:5-6, 12-14; Heb 1:14, 13:2; Gen 3:1-6, 15; Luke 10:18; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 1:6; Eph 6:12; 1 John 4:4, 5:18-19; Rev 20:1-10; Matt 25:41

**7. Creation:** We believe the Triune God created everything—both physical and spiritual—out of nothing. We believe God created human beings, male and female, in His own image and likeness and therefore with unique, intrinsic worth from conception to natural death.

Gen 1; John 1:1-3; Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:2; Job 38-41; Ps 104; Acts 17:24-26; Heb 11:3; Rev 4:11; Rom 11:36; Gen 1:26-27, 5:1-2; Ps 139:13-16; Gen 9:6

**8. Humanity:** We believe Adam and Eve experienced perfect relationship with their Creator and were appointed stewards of God's good creation. We believe they sinned by choosing to disobey God. Adam's rebellion rendered all people sinful in every respect, incapable of achieving God's standard of good, and thereby brought death to the human race.

Gen 1:28-31, 2:8-9, 15-25, 3:1-24, 6:5; Rom 3:9-12, 5:12; 1 Cor 15:21-22; Rom 6:16; 2 Chron 6:36a; 1 John 1:8, 10; Mark 7:21-23; John 3:19; Ecc 9:3; Jer 13:23; Rom 8:7; Ps 51:5, 58:3; Gen 8:21; Col 1:21; Gal 6:7-8; Rom 6:23; James 1:15; Ezek 18:4; Rev 21:8

**9. Regeneration:** We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, who enters each believer's life at the time of their salvation, makes them a new creation—although the old nature is not eradicated before death—and secures them until they arrive in Heaven.

Ps 14:1-3; James 1:14; Jer 17:9; Ecc 2:11; Rom 3:19, 23, 9:22; 2 Thess 1:9; Rev 20:10, 14-15; John 3:14, 5:24, 8:12, 10:26; Prov 28:13; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 11:18; 17:30-31; 20:21; Ps 51:7; Rom 3:23-24, 5:19; 1 John 1:9; Rom 8:1-2; 2 Cor 5:17; John 1:13, 3:16, 6:39; 1 Peter 1:4-5; Eph 1:13-14

**10. The Church:** We believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a community of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, ministry, and fellowship. We believe that the mission of the church is to edify believers in order to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into our lost world.

1 Cor 12:12, 27; Eph 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 4:11-16, 5:19-21, 23, 25-27, 29-32; Acts 2:41-47; Heb 10:23-25; Acts 1:8; Matt 28:18-20

**11. Ordinances:** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe in Christian baptism as the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God. Baptism is a public witness to the believer's spiritual baptism by which the Holy Spirit places him or her in union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ in order to remember His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and celebrated until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matt 28:19; Acts 2:38, 8:12; 10:48; Gal 3:26-27; Rom 6:3-5; Matt 28:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; Jer 31:31; John 6:51, 53-54; 1 Cor 11:23-26

**12. Christian Conduct:** We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be a good testimony before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity

in Christ.

1 Cor 10:31; 1 Pet 2:11-17, 3:8, 4:1-11; Rom 12:1-3; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Cor 9:6-9; 1 Cor 4:2; Col 1:9-11, 3:15-17; Heb 12:1-2; Rom 14:19; 1 Thess 5:11; Eph 4:15-16, 29

**13. Marriage & Family:** We believe the Bible teaches that marriage refers to the covenant relationship between one biological man and one biological woman, as instituted by God in the beginning, to the exclusion of all others. We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve the integrity of the family and its stability.

Gen 2:23-24; Matt 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Cor 7:2-6, 10-11; 1 Tim 3:2, 12; Tit 1:6; Rom 1:26-32; Lev 18:22; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Ps 127:3, 128:1-4; Prov 22:6; Deut 6:6-7; Col 3:18-21; Eph 5:33-6:4; Deut 5:16

**14. Religious Freedom:** We believe that every person is directly responsible to God. Believers should be free to covenant together in autonomous congregations without undue interference from any ecclesiastical or government authority. While respecting the authority of government, we affirm the responsibility of the church to speak into the public forum. In matters of disagreement between Scripture and government, we believe we must obey God.

Rom 3:19, 14:7-9, 12; 2 Cor 5:10; Matt 16:24-27; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Tim 2:1-3; Tit 3:1-2; 1 Pet 2:13-17; Jer 29:7; Phil 2:9-11, 3:20; Acts 4:19-20, 5:29, 17:11; 24:10-26; Ex 1:17; Dan 2:20-21, 3:1-30, 6:1-28; Rev 2:10

**15. Church Cooperation:** We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in an association of likeminded congregations. They may likewise cooperate with inter-denominational fellowships on a voluntary, independent basis, provided that the Gospel is not compromised.

Ps 133:1; Phil 1:5, 7, 27, 2:1-2; Rom 16:1-16; Acts 15:36, 41, 16:5; Rom 1:11-12, 12:13; 1 Cor 16:1; 2 Cor 8:1-4; Rev 1:4, 10-11; Gal 1:1-3; 1 Pet 1:1-2; Rom 14:1, 4, 10; 2 Cor 6:14-16

**16. Last Things:** We believe in the rapture of the Church, the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the endless suffering of the unbeliever in Hell and the eternal joy of the believer in the presence of God.

Acts 1:11; Matt 16:27; Mark 14:62; Dan 7:13-14; Rev 1:7; Tit 2:13; Phil 3:20; Luke 1:33; Isa 9:6-7, 11:3-9; 52:13-15; 1 Thess 4:14-17; 2 Tim 4:1; 1 Cor 4:5, 15:23-28, 35-57; 2 Pet 3:7; Isa 66:15-16, 22-24; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Rev 20:4-6, 11-15; Matt 25:46; Dan 7:9-10; 2 Pet 3:7; Heb 12:22-28; Rom 8:21; 2 Pet 3:10-13; John 14:3; Rev 21:1-22:5