

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

*Unity in essentials. Liberty in non-essentials. In all things, charity.*

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## PRIMARY BELIEFS

*We hold that these primary beliefs are essential to the Christian faith and must be agreed with to be a member of our church.*

## THE TRIUNE GOD

*We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Gen 1:1; Matt 5:48; Matt 3:16-17; Eph 4:1-6; Rom 11:36)*

## BIBLE

*We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God, without error in the original writings. It is the complete revelation of God's will for salvation and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. It is to be believed in everything it teaches, obeyed in all it requires, and trusted in everything it promises. (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:19-21; John 10:35; Deut 10:12-13)*

## HUMANITY AND THE FALL

*We believe every person, male and female, is created by God in God's image. Therefore, from conception to death, each person has intrinsic dignity and value and should be treated as such. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image; they sinned, and as a result, in union with Adam, all human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God and under His wrath. (Gen 1:27; Gen 2:7; Gen 3:6-8, 13; Rom 5:12, 19; Eph 2:2-3)*

## JESUS CHRIST

*We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one person in two natures. Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now sits at the right hand of God the Father. (John 1:14; Luke 1:27, 31, 35; Heb 4:15; Matt 27:26-50; 1 Cor 15:4; Acts 1:2-3; Rom 8:33-34; Heb 8:1-2)*

## SALVATION AND THE WORK OF CHRIST

*We believe that because every human is sinful and lost, every human needs salvation. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ alone. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for our salvation. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. (John 19:30; 1 Tim 2:5-6; Heb 9:12; Eph 1:7; Acts 4:12; Eph 2:8-9)*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

*We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him, they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service. (John 15:26; 1 John 5:20; 1 Cor 2:12-16; John 14:16-20; 1 Cor 12:13; Rom 8:9; Gal 5:16-18, 22-23)*

## **THE CHURCH**

*We believe that the church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The Holy Spirit unites them into the body of Christ, of which Christ is the head. The one true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. (Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 1:2; 1 Cor 12:13; Matt 28:19-20)*

## **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

*We believe God commands us to be holy in our private and public lives. We are to love God supremely and love others sacrificially. This shows up in how we care for one another, demonstrate compassion toward the poor, and work for justice on behalf of the oppressed. With God's word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil in our lives and in our unrighteous world. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed, transforming us in the totality of our personal and social responsibilities. (Eze 36:27; Phil 2:13; John 13:34; Micah 6:8; 1 John 5:2-3; Matt 28:19-20)*

## **THE RETURN OF CHRIST**

*We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates us to godly living, sacrificial service, and a desire to see the gospel proclaimed to all nations. (Acts 1:11; Acts 3:21; Matt 24:30; Matt 24:42-44)*

## **HEAVEN AND HELL**

*We believe God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal separation in hell and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth. (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-41; Acts 17:31; Matt 25:41-43; Luke 16:26; Matt 25:34,46; Eph 5:27; Ps 16:11)*

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## **SECONDARY BELIEFS**

*We hold that these secondary beliefs are not held by all Christians but must be supported to be a member of our church.*

## **BAPTISM + THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*We believe baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.*

*We believe the Lord's Supper, instituted by Christ, is the partaking of bread and wine. It reminds us of Christ's sacrifice and his promise to return; it confirms our faith and its benefits; it nourishes us spiritually and points to our unity in Christ and our bond with one another. We believe Christ is present spiritually in the bread and wine, not physically, and is genuinely received inwardly by faith. (Matt 28:19-20; Rom 6:3-4; Matt 26:28; 1 Cor 11:23-25)*

## **WOMEN + CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

*We believe in recognizing and supporting the contribution of women in the ministry of the church. We believe that all positions of leadership and service in the church are open to women, except for the role of overseer, which the Bible, in 1 Timothy 3, reserves exclusively for men. In our church, that role is embodied solely by those men who are biblically qualified to be pastors and elders. Apart from that role, women are encouraged to seek out all avenues of leadership and service, including Bible teaching, leading groups, serving on the various church ministry teams, serving as deacons, and by any other means fully exercising their gifts for the significant benefit of the body of Christ Jesus. (Acts 2:17; Gal 3:27-29; 1 Tim 3:1-7)*

## **MARRIAGE**

*We believe marriage is instituted by God, not government, is between one man and one woman, and is the only context for sexual desire and expression. (Gen 2:23-24; Matt 19:4-6; Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 7:2-5, Matt 5:32)*

## **GENDER**

*We believe that from the beginning, God created people in his image as either male or female and that this creation is a fixed matter of human biology, not individual choice. (Gen 1:26-28; Gen 2:18-24; 1 Cor 6:19-20)*

## **RACE**

*We believe that all races of human beings are created equally in the image of God. Racism, which is prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people based on their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, is evil and results from sin. We believe that the authority for approaching racism is Scripture, and therefore, our approach to racism centers around such. (Gen 1:26-28; Eph 2:11-21; Gal 3:27-29; 2 Tim 3:15-17)*

## **RIGHT TO LIFE**

*We believe that all human life is equally valuable and sacred and that human life and full personhood begins at conception and continues until death. As stewards of life, we are endowed by God with the responsibility to protect the worth and dignity of human beings from the moment of conception until the moment of death. Therefore, we oppose taking innocent life in all forms, including abortion and euthanasia. (Gen 1:26-27; Exo 20:13; Psalm 139:13; Luke 1:39-45)*

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## **TERTIARY BELIEFS**

*We hold that these tertiary beliefs are freely disagreed upon by members in our church so long as love and unity is the highest priority.*

- *Miraculous Gifts*
- *Six Literal Day Creationism*
- *Tribulation Timing*
- *Drinking Alcohol*
- *Political Affiliation*
- *Etc...*