

Article 3 **Statement of Faith**

The members of this church have adopted the following as their statement of faith:

1. 1. The Holy Scriptures. Both the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. We believe interpretation of these Scriptures must be in accord with their normal, grammatical and historical meaning (**2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21**; Mt. 5:18).
2. The Godhead. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (**Dt. 6:4**; Mt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; **Jn. 14:10, 26**).
- 2.1 The Person and Work of the Father.
 - 2.1.1 We believe that God the Father is a Spirit-Being, one in essence, personal in nature, invisible, inscrutable, immutable, incomparable, unequalled, unsearchable, infinite, eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient and worthy of our worship (**Jn. 4:24**; Dt. 6:24; Jn. 17:1-3; Jn. 1:18; **Is. 40:28**; Num. 23:19; 2 Sam. 7:22; Is. 40:13-25; Rm. 11:33-34; 1 Kin. 8:27; Is. 57:15; Jer. 32:17, 27; Ps. 139:7-12; 1 Jn. 3:20).
 - 2.1.2 We believe that God the Father is the creator, defender and preserver of the universe, and is therefore its ruler and judge (**Is. 40:12, 22, 26**; Ps. 47:2, 7, 8; Ps. 96:10, 13; Ps. 59:1; Ps. 121:3-8).
 - 2.1.3 We believe that God the Father loves the world so much that He sent His Son to deliver the world from just condemnation, that He gives life and authority to His Son so we can become His children, that He sent His Spirit to remain with us, that He responds to our prayers, and has committed Himself to dwell with His people (**Jn. 3:16; 5:19-26**; 17:1-3; 14:16, 26; 16:23, 26-27; Rev. 21:3).
- 2.2 The Person and Work of Jesus Christ.
 - 2.2.1 We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Is. 7:14; 9:6; Lk. 1:35; **Jn. 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21**; Gal. 4:4-5; Php. 2:5-8).
 - 2.2.2 We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by his literal physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; **Rom. 3:24-25**; 1 Pet. 2:24; **Eph. 1:7**; 1 Pet. 1:3-5).

2.2.3 We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, he fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (**Acts 1:9-10**; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; **Rom. 8:34**; 1 Jn. 2:1-2).

2.3 The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

2.3.1 We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them for the day of redemption (**Jn. 16:8-11**; **Rom. 8:9**; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; **Eph. 1:13-14**).

2.3.2 We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who enables believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege of the saved to be filled with the Spirit (**Eph. 1:17-18**; **5:18**; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27).

2.3.3 We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, and pastor-teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (**Rom. 12:3-8**; **1 Cor. 12:4-11**, 28; Eph. 4:7-12).

2.3.4 We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gifts of healing, were foundational and temporary. (1 Cor. 1:22, **1 Cor 13:8**, 14:21-22,) However, we realize that many earnest believers of charismatic and pentecostal background do not share this view. In the interest of body unity we do not encourage the teaching or use of these gifts among our members. (**1 Cor. 1:10**; 2 Cor. 13:11; **Eph 4:3**; **Phil. 1:27**; Phil. 4:2; Col. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:8)

We strongly affirm that God answers the prayer of the earnest believer for healing. **James 5:13-16**

3. The Total Depravity of Man. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (**Gn. 1:26**; 5:1-2; 9:6; **Rm. 5:12**; **3:10-23**; Eph. 2:1-3).

4. Salvation. We believe that salvation is divinely initiated, wholly of grace, and accomplished only through the mediatorial work of the Son of God. We believe that we are saved and justified when we recognize ourselves as sinners, and put our trust in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and His finished work on the cross of Calvary. Salvation is by grace through faith plus nothing else (**Jn. 1:12**, **3:16-18**, 36; **Rom. 3:23-24**, 10:9-10; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18).

5. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (**Jn. 6:37-40**; 10:27-30; **Rom. 8:1**, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5). We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, but that it clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an excuse for sinful behavior (**Rom. 13:13-14**; Gal. 5:13; **Titus 2:11-15**).
6. Creation. We believe that God created the universe. (Gen. 1-2; **Ex. 20:11**).
7. Human Sexuality. We believe that God prohibits sexual immorality. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. We reject any form of perversion of God's gift of sex, including pornography (**1 Cor. 6:13,18**, 10:8; **Eph 5:3**; Gen. 2:24; **Rom. 7:2**; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).
8. Sanctity of Life. We believe that human life begins at conception, and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. We reject any teaching to the contrary (Job 3:16; **Ps. 51:5**; **139:14-16**; **Isa. 44:24**; **49:1,5**; **Jer. 1:5**, 20:15-18; Lk. 1:44).
9. We believe that the next great event on God's prophetic time clock is the personal, bodily, return of the Lord Jesus Christ. When this event occurs, Jesus will remove from the earth His Church and reward Christians according to their works (**Jn.14:2-3**; Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 15:51-53; 2Cor. 5:10; **1 Thes.4:15-17**; Titus 2:11-13; **Rev. 3:10**). We believe that this event, known as "the Rapture," is imminent. By imminent We mean that Jesus can come back for those who are "dead and alive in Christ" (1Thess. 4:13-18; **1 Cor. 15:50-58**) any day and at any moment! His return in the clouds for His Church is impending and more near than ever before (**Titus 2:13**)!

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately presents the teaching of the Bible, and represents its significance for our church and society. All literature used in the church will be in complete agreement with the statement of faith.