

## Faith Statement

### Section 1. The Bible

We believe that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God”. We believe that while there was progress in revelation from God, this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings – history, poetry, doctrine, prophecy, and to the smallest word and inflection of a word as appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that the whole Bible in the originals is therefore without error. Human authors, under the supernatural inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and behavior. Because God inspired it, it is truth without any mixture of error (Psalm 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Tim. 1:13; 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

### Section 2. God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is holy and eternally exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. He created the world out of nothing, expressing the glory of His power, wisdom, and goodness. By His power he continues to sustain His creation. By His providence He is operating throughout history to fulfill his purposes (Genesis 1:1, 26, 26; 3:22; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; I Peter 1:2).

### Section 3. The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe that, as provided and purposed by God and as predicted in the Scriptures, the eternal Son of God came into this world that He might manifest God to men, fulfill prophecy and become the Redeemer of a lost world. To this end, He was born of a virgin and received a human body and a sinless human nature (Luke 1:30-35; John 1:18; 3:16; Hebrews 4:15). Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice and substitute for the sins of all men by dying on the cross and shedding his blood, thus accomplishing forgiveness and salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He arose from the dead in three days in a glorified, resurrected body, demonstrating His power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. {Isaiah 9:6; Matt. 1:22-23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; I Cor. 15:3-4; I Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15}

### Section 4. The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Person of the Holy Spirit is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and Son as God. He seeks presence in the world to make men aware of their needs for Jesus Christ. He also lives inside every true follower of Christ at the moment of salvation. He provides the believer with power for understanding, believing and living biblical truth. He is the abiding Comforter and Helper of the church. The true follower of Jesus Christ seeks to live under His daily control. {John 14:15-18; 15:26-27; 16:5-15}

## **Section 5. Creation and Fall of Man**

Human beings are created in God's image to be like Him in character. Man is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man had tremendous potential for good, he is marred or depraved by an attitude of disobedience toward God. We also believe that his spiritual death has been transmitted to the entire human race, Jesus Christ alone being excepted; and hence every human being is born in need of a new birth through Jesus Christ alone. {Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23}

## **Section 6. Salvation only through Jesus Christ**

Salvation is wholly a gift from God to man. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Salvation is a work of God's free grace. Only by trusting in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone can human beings be saved from the penalty of sin. Eternal life begins the moment one received Jesus Christ into his/her life through faith. {John 3:1-21; 14:6; Romans 5:1; 6:23; Galatians 3:26 Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5}

## **Section 7. Eternal Security**

We believe that everyone who is born again by the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ can be assured of their salvation the very day they trust him as their Savior. This assurance and security is not a product of our own works or worthiness, but is founded solely and wholly on the grace of God, through the finished work of Jesus Christ. {Luke 10:20; John 6:47; Romans 8:33-39; 2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Timothy 1:12; I John 5:13}

## **Section 8. The Church**

The church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that by the same Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we are Jews or Gentiles. The church of Jesus Christ is not the Nation of Israel or the so-called New Israel. The result of a person trusting Jesus Christ as Savior, he/she becomes a member of His body, the church. There is one true universal church (not limited to buildings or earthly institutions) made up of all those who have been born again by trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Bible strongly encourages believers to come together regularly to devote themselves to worshipping God, praying together, being instructed in the Word of God, and observing the ordinances (baptism and communion). Under the care of the elders and other leadership, its members are to work together in love and unity, with the intention of ultimately glorifying Jesus Christ. {Acts 2:41-47; Romans 12:5; Eph. 4:11-16; I Cor. 12:12-27; Hebrews 10:24-25; 13:7, 17; I Peter 5:1-4}

## **Section 9. Church Ordinances**

The Lord Jesus instituted the ordinances of baptism and communion to be observed by all believers until his return (Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 10:47-48). We will practice the ordinance of Christian baptism by immersion to express our faith in and spiritual

union with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior (Romans 6:3-5; Acts 8:26-39). Communion serves as a memorial celebration service in which the elements of the bread and cup remind us of the love of God. This love was especially demonstrated through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Communion is also a celebration, looking forward to the Lord's Second Coming (Matthew 26:26-30; Acts 2:41, 42; I Cor. 11:23-26).

### **Section 10. Christian Conduct**

A genuine expression of faith in Jesus Christ is marked by a life of holiness and obedience as a believer submits to the moment-by-moment empowerment of the Person of the Holy Spirit. Though works do not save a person, a healthy salvation response is always accompanied with repentance and a sincere desire to follow and serve Christ. Evidence of the Holy Spirit living in us is a desire to trust God's grace for Christian maturity. The Christian life is one that is characterized by Jesus Christ being the very life of the true believer (Phil. 1:21; I Cor. 4:10-12; Col. 3:1-4) and a continual pursuit to be holy even as God is holy. {2 Cor. 5:17; Galatians 5:19-26; Ephesians 2:10; 4:17-5:17; James 2:17, 24; I Peter 1:15; I John 2, 3}

### **Section 11. Blessed Hope**

We believe that according to the Bible, the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the Second Coming of the Lord. The Lord Jesus will come in person to rapture the Church, followed by a tribulation period, followed by the millennial age, when Israel will be restored to their own land, and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. This event is the blessed hope set before us in Scripture, and for this we should be constantly looking. {John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-52; Phil. 3:20; I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14}