

ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

Section 2.01 – Statement of Faith

The following comprise the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

A. The Scriptures

We believe the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is God's inspired and infallible Word. It is inerrant in the original manuscripts, and is the authority on all matters of life, belief, and practice of our faith.

Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89, 105, 130, 160; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:31; 24:25-27, 44-45; John 5:39, 45-47; 12:48; 17:17; Acts 1:16; 28:25; Romans 3:4; 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:19

B. God

We believe in one God, maker of heaven and earth, and eternally existent as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; equal in divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. He is pure, holy, all-powerful, full of love, and the source of truth.

Genesis 17:1; Exodus 20:2-3; 15:11; Psalm 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:30; John 4:24; 10:30; 15:26; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 11:23; 1 Corinthians 12:10-11; 8:6; 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 4:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 John 5:7; Revelation 4:11

C. Jesus Christ

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is the Son of God, and God, the Son. We believe in His sinless life, and in His miracles. His death on the cross was substitutionary for mankind and paid for the sins of the world. He died, was buried, rose bodily from the grave, He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father, is the only mediator between God and man, and He will return to earth in power and glory.

Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; Acts 1:9-10; 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; 1 Corinthians 15:47;

Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 2:5-8; I Timothy 2:5; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; Hebrews 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2; 5:20

D. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit, that His present work is to reveal Jesus Christ to people, to convict man of his sin and need for God, regenerate those who believe, that He indwells Christians to mediate the life of Jesus Christ in them, gifts them for participation and ministry in the Church and that He seals them until the Day of Redemption.

Genesis 1:13; Matthew 3:11; 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 3:16; 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:8-11, 13; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Romans 8:14, 16, 26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:7,13; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:2

E. The Devil, or Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy but through pride fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the prince of the power of the air, and the enemy of God. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the accuser of the saints, destined for defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of eternal justice in hell, prepared for him and his angels.

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Matthew 4:1-3; 13:25; 25:41; 27:39; Mark 13:21-22; Luke 22:3-4; John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 2:22; 3:8; 4:3; 2 John 7; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-10; 13:13-14; 19:11, 16, 20; 20:1-3, 10

F. Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

Genesis 1:1, 11, 24, 26-27; 2:21-23; Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Jeremiah 10:12; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; 17:23-26; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 10:6

G. The Fall of Man

We believe mankind was created in the image of God and enjoyed an open relationship with God. That relationship was broken when Man voluntarily chose to live his life without regard to God's will. Through Adam all people are born flawed by sin, by choice continue in sin and are in need of being restored in relationship with God.

Genesis 3:1-6, 24; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 1:18, 20, 28, 32; 3:10-19; 5:12, 19; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1, 3

H. Salvation

We believe God is the initiator of reconciliation with us and that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel. However, His holiness demands justice for the wrongs we have done. We believe that salvation is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus to atone for our sin and satisfy God's wrath against sin. We believe that salvation is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is not brought about by the will of man, but by the will of God. We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with sincere remorse, confession and plea for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior and Lord. We believe that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Psalm 51:1-4, 7; Isaiah 53:4-7, 11-12; 55:1, 6-7; Habakkuk 2:4; Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 11:28; 18:11; Mark 1:15; Luke 5:27; 12:8; 18:13; John 1:12-13; 3:3,6-7; 3:15-18, 36; 5:40; 6:37; 10:18; Acts 2:37-38, 41; 13:39; 15:11; 20:21; Romans 1:17; 3:21-26; 4:1; 5:1-9; 6:23; 8:1, 29-30; 10:9-13, 31; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17,19; Galatians 1:4; 3:11; 5:22; Ephesians 2:1, 4-5, 8; 5:9; Philippians 2:7-8; Colossians 2:13; 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 1:15; 3:5-7; Titus 1:1; Hebrews 2:14; 7:25; 9:12-15; 10:38; 12:2; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 5:1; Revelation 22:17;

I. The Church

We believe that the Church, the body of Christ, is made up of all believers of the church age; that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church; and that local churches are the practical expression of the Church. The local Church is a “people who” rather than a “place where”. Therefore, the church is the gathering of those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, have been baptized, associated by a covenant of faith and who meet for the purpose of being a church. Members of a local church voluntarily share their lives and faith with each other in unity and meet together for encouragement, worship, service, prayer, spiritual development and to observe the ordinances of the church (baptism by immersion and communion). We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence. We believe the local church is the planned instrument of God to carry out the Great Commission. Therefore, we believe every believer should join a local church and fully engage in accomplishing its mission.

Leviticus 27:31; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 6:5-6; 14:23; 15:22-23; 20:17-28; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 6:1-3; 11:2; 12:4,8-11; 16:1-2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

J. Baptism and The Lord’s Supper

We believe baptism by immersion is the prescribed method the Lord gives for new believers to express their new faith in Him and identification with Jesus. We do not believe baptism is an automatic entry into a local church but is a prerequisite to membership in a local church. We do not believe any denomination or authorizing body has exclusive rights to baptism.

We practice “close” communion which means we welcome all believers to join with us and request that those who are unbelievers not partake. However, we do not prevent people from taking communion with us. We believe this best honors our responsibility to fellowship with all believers as members of the body of Christ and allows each individual to be responsible for his or her faith and actions.

Matthew 3:6; 3:16; 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12

K. The Perseverance of the Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are sealed by the Holy Spirit and kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

Psalm 121:3; Matthew 6:20; 13:19-21; John 8:31-32; 10:28-29; 16:8; Romans 8:28,35-39; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 1:14; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 2:19

L. The Righteous and The Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 11:31; 14:32; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 7:13-14; 25:34; Luke 9:26; 16:25; John 8:21; 12:25; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 1:17; 6:16-18,23; 7:6; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Galatians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:18; 1 John 2:7,29; 5:19

M. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Exodus 18:21-22; 2 Samuel 23:3; Psalm 72:11; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 10:28; 22:21; 23:10; Acts 4:19-20; 23:5; Romans 13:7; Philippians 2:10-11; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17

N. Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29, 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9, 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4;

O. Family Relationships

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the church. The husband is to be the lead servant of the home and men are to be the spiritual leaders of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including scriptural corporal correction.

Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; I Corinthians 7:1-16; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7

P. The Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "The third day according to the Scriptures"; that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God"; that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God"; "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven," bodily, personally, and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first"; that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"; "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David"; and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

Psalm 72:8; Isaiah 11:4-5; Matthew 24:27,42, 28:6-7; Mark 16:6,19; Luke 1:32, 24:2,4-6,39,51; John 14:3, 20:27; Acts 1:9,11; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Philippians 4:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9; 8:1; 9:28; 12:2

Q. Missions

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to share the good news of the sacrifice of Jesus, the forgiveness of sin, and the instruction to follow the teaching of Jesus to those in our community, our region, our continent and the ends of the earth.

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20

R. The Grace of Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made.

Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17

Section 2.02 – Authority of Statement of Faith

The 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. All literature taught as truth in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.