

Statement of Faith

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

A. The Holy Scriptures

We affirm the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed in the original writings.

References: Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

B. The True God

We affirm there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all honor, confidence, and love. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—equal in every divine perfection, executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

References: Psalms 83:18; Mark 12:30; John 10:30, 17:5-10; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:5-6

C. Jesus Christ, His Person and Work

We affirm the absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; His virgin birth and perfect humanity. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, He became man without ceasing to be God to reveal God and redeem sinful man.

References: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 1 Timothy 3:16

We affirm that Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a vicarious and substitutionary sacrifice; justification is assured by His literal, physical resurrection.

References: Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24

We affirm that Christ ascended to heaven and is exalted at the right hand of God, serving as High Priest, intercessor, and advocate.

References: Acts 1:9-10; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2

D. The Holy Spirit, His Person and Work

We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead, co-equal with the Father and the Son, actively involved in creation and the plan of redemption.

Identity: He is a living, real Person, not merely a “power” or influence.

References: John 14:16-17, 16:13-14; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:30

Work:

1. Convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. (John 16:7-11)
 2. Regenerating all believers. (John 3:5-6)
 3. Indwelling all believers. (Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19)
 4. Baptizing all believers into the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 5. Sealing all believers unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)
 6. Filling and empowering believers as they yield to Him. (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18)
 7. Teaching and guiding believers into all truth. (John 14:26, 16:13)
 8. Helping and interceding for believers. (Romans 8:26-27)
 9. Conforming believers to the image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 10. Comforting believers. (Matthew 5:3-4)
-

E. The Gospel

We affirm that the Gospel is the good news that God has made a way of salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for any person. We deny that only a select few can respond to the Gospel while the rest are predestined to hell.

References: Genesis 3:15; Ezekiel 18:23, 32; Luke 19:10; John 1:1-18, 3:16; Romans 5:8, 8:34, 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 4:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9

F. The Depravity of Man

We affirm that man was created in God's image, but through Adam's voluntary transgression incurred spiritual and physical death. All humanity is born with a sinful nature, incapable of pleasing God without His intervention. Salvation cannot be achieved by human effort but only through a response to the Holy Spirit's drawing through the Gospel.

References: Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 3:15-24, 6:5; Job 33:4; Isaiah 6:5, 7:15-16, 53:6; Jeremiah 17:5,9, 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Matthew 7:21-23; John 3:18; Romans 1:18-32, 3:9-20, 5:12, 6:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1-3; Hebrews 9:27-28; Revelation 20:11-15

G. The Atonement of Christ

Salvation is wholly of grace through Christ's substitutionary death. Believers are justified on the basis of His shed blood. We deny salvation without repentance and faith and deny that Christ died only for the elect.

References: Leviticus 17:11; Psalms 22:14-18; John 1:12, 12:32, 14:6; Acts 10:39-43, 16:30-32; Romans

3:24-26, 5:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:10-14; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-20; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 9:12-15, 24-28; 10:1-18; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7, 2:2

H. The Grace of God

Grace is God's initiative in salvation, freely offering atonement and uniting believers to Christ. We deny that grace negates faith or can be earned.

References: Proverbs 3:34; Matthew 19:16-30, 23:37; Luke 10:1-12; Acts 15:11, 20:24; Romans 3:24-28, 5:6-8, 15-21; Galatians 1:6, 2:21; Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 4:16, 9:28; 1 John 4:19

I. The Regeneration of the Sinner

Believers are born again through the Holy Spirit when they respond to the Gospel in faith and repentance. Regeneration occurs only after hearing and responding to the Gospel.

References: John 3:3, 7:37-39, 16:7-14; Acts 2:37-39; Romans 6:4-11, 10:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20, 6:15; 1 Peter 3:18

J. The Election to Salvation

Election refers to God's plan to have a people who respond to Him in repentance and faith. We deny that God predestined some for salvation and others for condemnation.

References: Genesis 1:26-28, 12:1-3; Exodus 19:6; Jeremiah 31:31-33; Matthew 24:31, 25:34, 15:16; Romans 8:29-30, 33; 9:6-8, 11:7; Ephesians 1:4-6, 2:11-22; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 7:9-10

K. The Sovereignty of God

We affirm God's eternal knowledge and sovereignty over salvation and condemnation. We deny that God causes a person's faith or rejection.

References: Genesis 1:1, 6:5-8, 18:16-33; 2 Samuel 24:13-14; 1 Chronicles 29:10-20; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalms 23ff, 51:4, 139:1-6; Joel 2:32; John 6:44; Titus 3:3-7; James 1:13-15

L. The Free Will of Man

God endows each person with actual free will to accept or reject His gracious call. Faith is a personal response, not an act of God.

References: Genesis 1:26-28; Numbers 21:8-9; Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 8:1-22; 2 Samuel 24:13-14; Matthew 7:13-14; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 9:23-24, 13:34, 15:17-20; Romans 10:9-10; Titus 2:12; Revelation 22:17

M. The Eternal Security of the Believer

Believers are eternally kept by God's power. Salvation is assured through justification, sanctification, and glorification. Apostasy is impossible.

References: John 6:36-40, 10:27-30, 14:1-4; Romans 3:24, 8:1, 12:1-3, 13:13-14, 29-30, 35-39; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 1:21-22; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-15; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 3:2, 5:13-15

N. The Two Natures of the Believer

Believers possess two natures. The new nature can overcome the old through the Holy Spirit. Eradication of the old nature in this life is unscriptural.

References: Romans 6:11-13, 8:12-13; Galatians 5:5, 17-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9

O. Separation

Believers should live in a manner that honors Christ, separating from all religious apostasy, worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. Christian liberty must never be used as an occasion for the flesh.

References: Romans 12:1-2, 13:13-14; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17

P. The Church

The true church is the body and espoused bride of Christ, composed of all born-again believers. Local churches are established and continued according to New Testament teaching. The local church is autonomous, free from external control.

References: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27; Acts 14:17, Titus 1:5-11; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13

Q. The Ordinances

Baptism: Public profession of faith by immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, symbolizing faith in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism is required for church membership.

References: Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; Acts 2:41, 8:38-39

Lord's Supper: Commemoration of Christ's death until He returns, preceded by self-examination.

References: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

R. The Personality of Satan

Satan is a real person, the author of sin and the fall, the enemy of God and man, and will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

References: Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11, 25:41; Revelation 20:10

S. The Second Coming of Christ

We affirm the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation, and pre-millennial coming of Jesus Christ for His redeemed, followed by His return to establish His millennial kingdom.

References: Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:9; Revelation 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6

T. The Eternal State

All men will bodily rise: the saved to eternal life, the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. Redeemed souls are present with the Lord until the first resurrection; unbelievers face conscious punishment until the Great White Throne Judgment.

References: Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26, 23:43; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15

U. Creation

The universe was created by God in six literal 24-hour days, apart from evolutionary processes. Man was directly created by the Triune God.

References: Genesis 1:1ff; Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalms 33:6; Isaiah 40:28; John 1:3; Acts 17:24-25; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1-2

V. Civil Government

God has ordained the home, church, and state as authorities. All are answerable to God and governed by His Word. No institution may infringe on another. Leaders should be honored, prayed for, and obeyed, except in opposition to God's will.

References: Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14

W. Human Sexuality

1. God creates each person as male or female, reflecting His image. Intimate sexual activity is only permitted in marriage between one man and one woman. Homosexuality, adultery, pornography, and attempts to alter gender are sinful.

References: Genesis 1:26-27, 2:24, 19:5, 13; Leviticus 18:6-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4

2. Marriage is a union of one man and one woman.

References: Genesis 2:18-25; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-25

3. Employees and volunteers must adhere to this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality.

References: Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; 1 Timothy 4:12

X. Family Relationships

God ordains the family: one man, one woman, and their children. Husbands love wives as Christ loves the church; wives submit to husbands; parents teach and discipline children in spiritual and moral values.

References: Genesis 1:26-28; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalms 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33, 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7

Y. Divorce and Remarriage

God disapproves of divorce; marriage is intended to last until death. Divorced or remarried individuals may serve in the church, but cannot be considered for Pastor or Deacon.

References: Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:3-12; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10-22; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6

Z. The Sanctity of Human Life: Abortion

Human life begins at conception; abortion constitutes unjustified taking of life and is murder. Abortions for any reason, including rape, incest, or birth defects, are unacceptable.

References: Exodus 20:13, 21:22-25; Psalms 51:5-6, 127:3, 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:41-44; Galatians 1:15; Ephesians 1:3-4

AA. The Sanctity of Human Life: Euthanasia

Directly taking innocent human life, including suicide, is a moral evil. Life must be respected from conception to natural death. Refusal of extraordinary or disproportionate medical treatment is legitimate.

References: Exodus 20:13, 23:7; Deuteronomy 30:19; Ecclesiastes 8:8; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:26, 54-56; Hebrews 9:27

BB. Lawsuits between Believers

Christians should not bring civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church. Disputes should be resolved within the church.

References: Matthew 5:23-25; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32

CC. Missions

All believers are obligated to witness by life and word, proclaiming the Gospel to all people. Salvation comes only through faith in Christ.

References: Proverbs 11:30; Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 28:19-20; John 14:6; Acts 1:8, 4:12, 10:42-43; Romans 1:16, 10:13-15; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

DD. Giving

Christians are stewards of God's wealth, obligated to support their local church. Tithing (10%) is a basis for giving, with additional offerings given sacrificially and cheerfully. Once given, the use of gifts is God's to direct.

References: Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:8-10; Luke 6:38; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18, 6:17-19; 1 John 3:17

EE. Call to Ministry

Men may be called by God to Gospel ministry. Licensure or ordination is granted if scriptural prerequisites are met. Women are not licensed or ordained to the Gospel ministry.

References: Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 2:12, 3:1-2, 4:12-16

FF. Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

God sovereignly bestows gifts. Evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today. Tongues and signs ceased with completion of Scripture.

References: 1 Corinthians 8-12, 12:4-11, 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12