

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**Introduction:** The Bible tells one grand, unified story – a true account of the lavish and relentless love of a holy God. It is a drama in four acts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. It calls us – not simply to be spectators – but to respond with living faith. God calls us to believe – placing our trust in him, personally committing ourselves to him, and accepting the truth of the gospel. He calls us to embrace certain truths that define us as a believing community and then embody those truths in how we live. We must speak, then, of what we believe and how we should then live. As a part of the Body of Christ, we affirm the core truths of the Gospel, and then we enact those truths, committed to love God fully, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to carry out the Great Commission for God's glory and the salvation of those who would believe in faith.

**One God in Trinity:** We believe that there is ONE living and true GOD, eternally existing in three persons serving different roles: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; We believe God created all, upholds all, sustains all, and governs all things. (Colossians 1: 15-20, Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 10:29-30; Hebrews 9:14)

**God the Father:** We Believe in God the Father. An eternal loving God, creator of all things, perfect in all things, ruler over all things, sees all things, hears all things, knows all things, concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, and adopts into his family all who repent and believe by faith in the gospel of the grace of God. He is reconciling all things to Himself and will judge the world One day in righteous judgement. (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalms 90:2, 102:27; John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Titus 1:3)

**Jesus Christ the Son:** We Believe in Jesus Christ who is God's one and only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin as fully God and fully man. We believe He lived a sinless life to serve as our example for living, died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice for salvation in payment for the sins of the whole world; resurrected on the 3rd day, ascended into heaven, and sitting at the right hand of God. We believe He intercedes for His people, and He is coming again to judge the world and bring in a new heaven and new earth.

(Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23; Mark 16:19; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2, 8:58, 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 1:2; Revelation 1:8)

**Holy Spirit:** We Believe in the Holy Spirit, Who comes from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He indwells in every believer as our seal for salvation, our advocate, our source of knowing God and his truth, gives new life in Christ Jesus to all who believe, and empowers us to fulfill the Great Commission and Commandment. (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 16:8-11; Romans 15:13,16; Hebrews 9:14)

**The Scriptures:** We believe that the Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) are the Word of God, written through man, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit without error, and our guide for living and salvation. The Scriptures will govern all church ministry operations. We believe that the Word of God supersedes any other law that is contrary to the Scriptures. ( 2 Timothy 3:14-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Psalm 19 :7-10, 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, Matthew 5:18-19, Isaiah 28;13, Nehemiah 8:8, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:23-25, 2 Peter 1:21

**Humanity:** We believe God sovereignly creates all humanity as either male or female, with God's will for marriage and reproduction between one husband and one wife. We believe God created Adam, the first male, and Eve, the first female on the 6th day of creation. Adam and Eve were created in the image of God to be representatives of His goodness in all of creation. Through the misuse of their wills, however, Adam and Eve sinned by succumbing to their own temptations, disobeying God's command and thus brought sin into the world and became subject to physical and spiritual death. As a result all humans are sinners by nature deserving of God's wrath. All are in need of God's saving grace in Christ and The Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1-3, Psalm 14, and Romans 3).

**Salvation:** We believe that salvation is received by grace alone, through faith alone, by Christ alone, that will produce good works. Salvation is a divine gift, given to any who repent and believe by faith in God through the work of Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Repentance and faith are the divinely-enabled human responses to the grace of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, a sinner must turn away from sin and embrace God as Lord of their life and only Savior from the power of sins— thus appropriating the benefits of Christ's life, death and resurrection. All who truly believe and receive Christ are fully justified, reconciled to God, born of his Spirit, adopted as his children, and united with Jesus in his death and resurrection. They will one day see him in his glory and be glorified themselves, as God brings his redemptive work to completion. (Romans 1:16, Galatians 2:15-16, Galatians 3:2-6, Ephesians 2: 8-10, James 2:14-23)

**The Church:** We Believe that Christ is the head of the church which is the living, spiritual body of all born again believers in Christ. Its strength is in God's presence by the Holy Spirit. The church strives to reflect the Godness of God and exists for His glory. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:15-16)

**The Sacraments:** We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper were instituted by the Lord Jesus himself – not as a means of salvation, but as outward signs of the salvation we have by faith. They are the divinely mandated means by which believers publicly affirm their faith in Christ. Water baptism symbolizes the spiritual union that every believer has with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection. Therefore, we believe that the biblical pattern is baptism upon profession of faith in Christ, and furthermore, that it should be administered by immersion whenever possible. The Lord's Supper serves as not only a vivid memorial of Jesus' bodily sacrifice and shed blood, but also as a proclamation of his death until he returns. It symbolizes the believer's union with Christ and the spiritual unity shared by every believer. It provides a powerful inducement to self-examination, should be celebrated joyfully and regularly, and is open to all who are followers of Christ.

**The Second Coming of Christ:** We believe that the second coming of Christ will be personal, bodily, visible, and glorious. His second coming, the blessed hope for which we must be constantly prepared, is a source of encouragement and comfort, a motive for holy living, and an inspiration for ministry and mission. We believe that when Jesus returns, he will subdue his enemies and establish his kingdom on earth and will reign in perfect righteousness. For those in Christ, death is gain, because to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. At the resurrection, we believe that every person will face one of two eternal destinies. We believe that no condemnation awaits those who are in Christ, because their sins were forgiven at the cross. They will have their lives and works judged only for reward, and will enjoy an eternal, embodied life in the presence of God and his angels, forever. Those who are not in Christ will be raised to appear before God for a final, irrevocable judgment. They will be consigned to a place of eternal, conscious punishment, separated from God in hell, with Satan and his angels. We believe in the coming restoration of all things, where God – in accordance with his power and promises – will one day bring his purposes for all of creation to their glorious fulfillment. Here, God's handiwork – though disfigured by sin and subject to decay – will be fully restored in a new heaven and new earth. We believe that all of God's

redemptive purposes will come to fruition, and death will be swallowed up in victory. (We Believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell and that all those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord, while those who reject Jesus' gracious gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from the Lord in Hell). (Matthew 25:31-34; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:4; Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:22; 18:9; Luke 12:5)