

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following statements summarize the doctrines to which we adhere and believe essential to the practice of our faith and fulfillment of our purpose.

- 1. The Scriptures:** The Holy Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the complete written Word of God, given through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, contextually true and free of error, as the all-sufficient authority in all matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living. The New King James Version of the Holy Bible will be the principle translation used for reference by this church, although other translations may be appropriate and used on occasion. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)
- 2. The Nature of God:** There is only one God, eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, the Creator and Ruler of all things. He has been revealed to man only through the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, equally divine and eternal with the Father, who is also the Son of Man, truly human but without sin. The Holy Spirit is a person, co-equal and one with the Father and Son, whose work it is to glorify God in Christ by convicting men of their sin and regenerating those who believe in Christ and accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:14)
- 3. The Creation and Nature of Man:** All things were created and are sustained by God. We believe that the Genesis account of creation is true and historically accurate, revealing that man and the universe were created directly by God in six literal twenty-four hour days and not by a process of evolution. In particular, man was created in the image of God for the purpose of mutual love and fellowship between him and his Creator. However, man willfully sinned against God, bringing sin and death into the world. Through Adam, all men have inherited a sin nature; upon reaching an age of accountability, this nature evidences itself in willful acts of sin. All men are therefore guilty sinners under the condemnation of a Just and Holy God. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)
- 4. The Work of Christ:** Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary by the miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a sinless human life, perfectly fulfilling the divine law, and then offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. He died on the Cross, shedding His precious blood in atonement for the sins of all people. He was buried, arose bodily from the dead on the third day and is alive forevermore. He later ascended bodily into heaven to reside at the right hand of the Father to whom He continually intercedes for those who have trusted Him as Savior. (Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; I Cor 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13)
- 5. Salvation:** Mankind is "lost" and utterly unable to save himself because of his sin nature. Without salvation, his or her destiny shall be eternal separation from God in a literal hell. Salvation is the free gift of God, entirely apart from man's works, and can only be obtained by those who personally receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Faith in Jesus Christ and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit is the only means of obtaining salvation and heaven. The evidence of the salvation experience will include a life characterized by Christ-like motives and standards and a genuine love for Christ and His Word. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5)
- 6. Eternal Security of the Believer:** God gives eternal life to believers through faith in Jesus Christ. We, as believers, can never lose our salvation or be separated from God. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by self-effort. Our salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. (John 3:14-16, 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30; Romans 8:23)
- 7. The Church:** Christ's Church is composed of all who have been saved and will be with Him in Heaven. A local church, therefore, should likewise be composed of a regenerated church membership; that is, persons old enough to understand their need for Jesus Christ and, of their own free will, accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior. Each local church should be organized to effectively carry out its purpose. (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 5:23-33)
- 8. Spiritual Gifts and The Ministry:** The Holy Spirit, according to His will, bestows His spiritual gifts on members of the body for purposes of winning the lost and strengthening believers. At first, some of these gifts were for confirmation of the spoken word of the disciples. When the written Word of God in the form of the New Testament was completed, some miraculous gifts (such as the ability to speak in unlearned languages, the power to receive and communicate divine revelations, or the ability to perform supernatural healings) were no longer necessary and were gradually replaced by gifts that were permanently needed such as pastoral guidance, evangelism, teaching the written Word, and others. This does not mean that God can no longer answer prayer or accomplish things in miraculous ways when He so chooses. However, such occurrences are not to be considered specific "gifts" or powers possessed by individuals. (I Cor 12:4-11, 28:30, 13:8-10; Mark 16:20; Heb 2:4; Rom 12:6-8; Eph 4:11-12)
- 9. The Promised Return of Christ:** When the present age is consummated, the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth to establish His millennial kingdom. Since the time and date of His coming is unknown, Christians should live in a manner consistent with the earnest expectation of His imminent return. Upon His return, all believers, both the living and the dead, will be called to meet Him in the air and receive their resurrection bodies. They will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged, not for salvation, but for rewards. The coming of Christ will also bring a period of great tribulation and judgment on earth to the unsaved that are left behind because of their rejection of God and His Son. Finally, Christ will come to the earth in power and glory to reign for a thousand years. (I Corinthians 15:35-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- 10. The Last Things:** Following the millennial reign of Christ, the unsaved dead will be resurrected and judged according to their works. At that time they will be sentenced to be cast into the lake of fire and be forever separated from God. Satan, who is a real personality and the source of all evil in the universe, will also be consigned forever to the lake of fire. Those who are saved will live forever in the presence of Christ, enjoying the fellowship for which they were created. (Revelation 20; Romans 14:11-12)
- 11. Marriage and Sexuality:** The term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. God has commanded that intimate sexual activity is to occur only within a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

In order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church. (Gen. 2:24-25; Matt. 19:3-6; I Cor. 5:1-7; Rom. 1:24-32; Lev. 18:6-30; Ps. 139:13-16)