

Membership Statement of Faith

I. God

We believe in one living and true God, eternally existing in perfect unity as one God in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully God, and yet there is one God.

The Trinity

We believe there is one living and true God, eternally existing in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each member of the Trinity has precisely the same nature, attributes, and being, and is equally worthy of the same glory and honor and obedience. The triune God has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself; and is alone all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He has made (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16–17; Isaiah 44:6; Genesis 1:2; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Matthew 3:16–17; Isaiah 6:3; Malachi 3:6; Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 139:7–8; Job 42:2; Luke 1:37; Deuteronomy 32:4; Exodus 33:19; 1 John 4:8).

God the Father

We believe God the Father is the infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. God the Father created all things for His glory according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ. He upholds all things by the Word of His power and grace, exercising sovereign headship over all creation; and sends His son to save a people for Himself (Matthew 23:9; Luke 10:21–22; John 3:16; John 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1–2; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6).

Jesus

We believe Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of God, was sent by the Father and took on human flesh by being conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary. He, being fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life and then died on the cross in our place accomplishing redemption for all who place their faith in Him. He arose visibly and bodily from the dead three days later and ascended into heaven, where, seated at the Father's right hand, He is now Head of His Body the Church, the only Savior and Mediator between God and man, and will physically return to earth in power and glory to fully establish His kingdom (John 8:46, 18:38b, 19:4, 21:25; Philippians 2:4–5; John 5:18, 10:30–33, 14:6; Acts 4:28; Hebrews 4:15, 7:25; Mark 10:45; John 10:18; Acts 4:28; Ephesians 1:3–6; Philippians 2:6–11; Revelation 13:8; Acts 2:36; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9–11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:9–10; Revelation 1:7; 19).

Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ and convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. The Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, equips, empowers, permanently indwells, and bestows spiritual gifts to the believer for Christ-like living, service, and witness (Genesis 1:2; Acts 5:3–5; John 14:26; John 16:7–11; Acts 1:8, John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 14:22; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 11).

II. God's Sovereignty

We believe that God created the world from nothing and governs all things at all times in all places.

We believe that God, from all eternity, in order to display the full extent of His glory did freely and unchangeably ordain whatever comes to pass. God actively upholds and governs all things according to His eternal, all-wise purposes to glorify Himself.

Sovereignty of God in Salvation

We believe that the salvation of humanity is fundamentally the work of God. Before the foundation of the world, God elected from every tribe, language, people, and nation those who would be delivered from bondage to sin and brought to repentance and saving faith in His Son Jesus Christ. Faith is a gift of grace that is given by the mercy and pleasure of God, so that no one may boast. Apart from the intervention of God, humanity cannot choose to worship God and pursue righteousness, yet humanity maintains their moral accountability before God. God's sovereignty in salvation is comprehensive: from first to last, all of salvation is the work of God (John 1:12–13; 6:37–44; 10:25–30; Acts

13:48; 16:30-31; Romans 3:1-4:25; 8:1-17,31-39; 9:1-23; 10:8-10; Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7; 1 John 1:7,9).

III. The Scriptures

We believe that God has made Himself known to the world through His inspired Word, which is inerrant, authoritative and sufficient.

We believe that the scriptures contained in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the full record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. Different men, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, were supernaturally moved along by the Holy Spirit to record God's very words. The scriptures are inerrant in the original writings, infallible in their instruction, eternal in duration, the final authority and standard for faith and practice. The scriptures are fully trustworthy as our final and sufficient authority for all of life and they contain all the words of God that we need in order to completely trust and obey God (Nm 23:19; Deut 4:1-2; Ps 19:7-10; 119:89; Prov 30:5-6; Is 40:8; Mt 5:17-18; Lk 21:33; 24:44-46; Jn 5:39; 17:17; Rom 2:12; 15:4; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Pt 1:25; 2 Pt 1:19-21; 1 John 4:1).

IV. Man

We believe that all humanity is created in the image of God and possesses intrinsic dignity and worth.

We believe God created mankind—male and female—in His own image and likeness, free of sin, to glorify Himself. Every human equally bears the image of God and should be treated with the same dignity and love, regardless of national identity, language, ethnicity, or gender (Genesis 1:26–27; Genesis 2:16–17; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26-29; James 2:1-13).

V. Sin

We believe that sin has fractured all things, leaving the world in desperate need of salvation.

We believe that man, tempted by Satan, freely chose to disobey God, bringing sin, death, and condemnation to all mankind. All human beings are sinful by nature and by choice, alienated from God without defense or excuse. Man is also justly condemned in the sight of God, wholly unable to contribute in any way to their acceptance with God, and are in desperate need of the Savior Jesus Christ (Rom 5:12; Rom 5:15-19; Ps 51:5; Rom 8:7; Isa 53:6; Gen 6:12; Rom 3:9-18; Eph 2:1-3; Rom 1:18, 32; Rom 2:1-16; Gal 3:10; Matt 20:15; Ezek 18:19-20; Rom 1:20; Rom 3:19; Gal 3:2).

VI. The Gospel

We believe that God has accomplished salvation through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for all who believe.

We believe that the gospel is the good news of what Jesus Christ has done to accomplish salvation for all who believe. The Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as the substitutionary atonement in our place, and salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. The salvation offered in this gospel message is received by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone; no ordinance, ritual, work, or any other activity on the part of man is required in order to be saved. The gospel is not only the means by which people are saved, but also the means by which believers are sanctified. The truth of the gospel enables believers to genuinely and joyfully do that which is pleasing to God and to grow in progressive conformity to the image of Christ (Mark 1:1; Luke 24:46-47; John 3:16-18; Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2:2; 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; 9:13; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Timothy 1:8-14; Jude 3-4).

VII. Salvation

We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

We believe that, due to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again (John 3:5-8); that salvation is only by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ; and that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are declared righteous by God and become children of God (Heb.10:19-25). We believe the Scriptures teach that regeneration, or the new birth, is that act of God by which the Holy Spirit imparts a new nature and a new spiritual life, not before had, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus (Gal. 2:20). The mind is given a holy disposition and a new desire to serve God, the dominion of sin is broken, and the heart is transformed from a love of

sin and self to a love of holiness and God (John 3:16, 6:44; Acts 2:37–38, 4:12, 11:18, 17:30; Romans 4:1–5; 2 Corinthians 7:10–11; 2 Timothy 2:25).

VIII. The Church

We believe the Church is the body of Christ sent into the world to shine forth the glory of God and make disciples.

Universal & Local

We believe every person who repents of sin and believes the gospel is a member of the universal Church, which consists of all believers who have lived, are living, and will ever live (Colossians 1:24). The universal Church is the only institution that will not and cannot be defeated (Matthew 16:18). Christ died for His bride, the Church, and will sanctify the Church to present her to himself without spot or blemish (Ephesians 5:25–27).

We believe the local church is a visible expression of the universal Church, and we believe God has called every believer to join a local church. A local church is made up of a group of believers who have covenanted together to preach the gospel, to care for one another, and to live distinct lives under the authority of God's Word (Acts 2:42–47, 11:26, 12:5, 14:23). God has graciously given each believer spiritual gifts to build up the local church (Romans 12:4–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11; Ephesians 4:11–12; 1 Peter 4:9–11; 1 Cor 1:1–3; Acts 2:41–42; Acts 5:11; Acts 11:21–23).

Leadership

We believe men and women are together created in the divine image and are therefore equal before God as persons, possessing the same moral dignity and value but are distinct by divine design. As part of God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church. As it relates to the church, men and women are both expected to lead; however, the office of elder is reserved for qualified men (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1).

Evangelism & Church Planting

We believe and embrace a missionary understanding of the local church and its role as the primary means by which God chooses to establish his kingdom on earth. Mission is not an optional program in the church but an essential element in the identity of the church. We are called to make Christ known through the proclamation of the gospel and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring his lordship to bear on every dimension of life. The primary way we fulfill this mission is through the planting of churches that plant churches and the training of their leaders. Our aim is that each person who comes to Christ would grow in conformity to Christ through the ministry of those churches God enables us to plant around the world. (Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 10:5–25; 28:18–20; Luke 4:18–19; 24:46–47; Acts 28:31; Romans 10:14–15; 2 Corinthians 10:4–5; Galatians 2:10; Ephesians 3:10; 4:11–16; 2 Timothy 4:1–5; Hebrews 10:23–25; 1 Peter 2:4–5, 9–10)

IX. Church Ordinances

We believe that God has given his church two ordinances to observe: baptism & communion.

We believe that baptism and communion are the two ordinances to be observed by the church until Christ's return. They are not a means of salvation but a means of God's sanctifying grace and blessing to those in Christ Jesus.

We believe baptism is for those who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ. In obedience to Christ's command and as a testimony to all, believers are baptized by immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism is a visual symbol of being buried with Christ and being raised to walk in newness of life. It signifies that a former way of life has been put to death and that Christ has made this person a new creation.

We believe communion is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ and have been baptized. This symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life. As we come to the table with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body (Acts 8:36–39; Matt 3:5–6; John 3:22–23; John 4:12; Matt 28:19–20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12; Acts 16:32–34; Acts 18:8; Acts 10:47–48; Gal 3:26–28; Rom 6:3–11; Col 2:12; 1 Pet 3:20–21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:41–42; 1 Cor 11:26; Matt 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:14–20; 1 Cor 11:28; 1 Cor 5:1–8; 1 Cor 11:17–32; John 6:26, 1 Peter 3:21).

X. Eternity

We believe that Jesus Christ is personally and visibly returning to the world to judge the living and the dead and fully establish His kingdom.

We believe that the Kingdom of God will be fully established at the glorious, physical, visible, and triumphant return of Christ to the earth as King. After Christ returns, he will bring about the ultimate defeat of Satan, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment. Every person who has not repented of sin and believed the gospel will be eternally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring God's eternal righteous wrath. All Christians, in glorious bodies, will enjoy eternal life and reign with Christ forever. At that time, the Kingdom of God will be completely fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth. This will be the beginning of a never-ending, ever-increasing happiness in the hearts of the redeemed, as God displays more and more of His greatness and glory for the enjoyment of His people in a kingdom free from sin and death (Matthew 25:41–46, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28,50-58; Ephesians 5:6, Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12; Revelation 19:1-21; Revelation 20:7-15; Revelation 21:1-5, 8).