

## **1.1 Article II: Statement of Faith**

### **1.1.1 THE WORD OF GOD**

We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the complete and revealed Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original writings, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

(Psalm 19:7-11; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 15-17; 2 Peter 1:28)

### **1.1.2 THE TRINITY**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These are equal in every divine perfection and perform distinct but harmonious functions in creation, redemption, and providence.

(Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 3:16-17; Mathew 17:5-8; Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:1,14,18; II Corinthians 13:14)

### **1.1.3 GOD THE FATHER**

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness; wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He is intimately involved in the affairs of mankind, that He hears and answers prayer, that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 19; John 14:13-14; Acts 17:24-30; Romans 5:8; 1 John 5:11-12)

### **1.1.4 JESUS CHRIST**

We believe in Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings.

We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

(Luke 1:35; John 1:1-14; Acts 1:11; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 1:1-10; 4:14; 7:25)

### **1.1.5 THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe re Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer at salvation, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

(John 3:3-7; 16:8-14; Romans 8:26; Acts 2:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18)

### **1.1.6 REGENERATION**

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

(John 14:6; Romans 3:10-18, 23; Romans 6:23; Titus 3:5)

### **1.1.7 THE CHURCH**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head, composed of people who through faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the local church, whose membership consists of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, associated for worship, Bible study, prayer, the ordinances, fellowship, and evangelism of the lost world.

(Matthew 16:18; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:1-15)

### **1.1.8 CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**

We believe that a Christian should seek to live for the glory of God and the wellbeing of his fellow man; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should seek to be a faithful steward of his possessions; that he should seek to realize for himself, and others, the full stature of maturity in Christ.

(Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 2:6-7; 3:17; Titus 2:11-13)

### **1.1.9 THE ORDINANCES**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the church to be observed until the return of Christ: baptism and the Lord's Supper. By baptism, a believer publicly declares his new life in Christ. In the Lord's Supper, the believer is dramatically reminded of the sacrifice of Christ for our sin. We believe that these two ordinances are not means for salvation, but acts of obedience.

(Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:19; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-24)

### **1.1.10 LAST THINGS**

We believe in the personal, pre-millennial, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ to earth. We believe His coming will be visible for the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the endless suffering of the wicked, the eternal blessedness of the believer.

(Matthew 24:1-51; John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:1-10)

### **1.1.11 HUMAN SEXUALITY**

Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as "porneia"-- πορνεία) including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness.

### **1.1.12 MARRIAGE**

Marriage has been instituted by God. This church defines "marriage" as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in this paragraph.