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# STATEMENT OF FAITH

(WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY WE BELIEVE IT)

This Church accepts the Bible as the revealed and written will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity of statements of faith.

**The Bible.** *This Church considers the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be God's only infallible & inspired written revelation to man, the ultimate benchmark and eternal authority for a life of faith and the guide for this statement of faith. It cannot be added to, subtracted from or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof.*

**The Trinity.** *Throughout the Bible, God is expressed as 1 being with 3 eternally distinct persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

**God the Father.** *God the Father creates and sustains all things in love. He created man in His own image for the purpose of relationship. After Adam disconnected himself from God's boundaries of relationship, the Father made a way for mankind to reconnect to this relationship with Himself through Jesus the Son.*

**Jesus Christ the Son.** *Jesus is eternally God. He was with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through Him all things were made. He left heaven to be born as a man, conceived by the Holy Spirit within the virgin Mary's womb.*

**The Holy Spirit.** *The Holy Spirit is God. He was active in the Old Testament and fully given to the church at Pentecost as promised by prophets and Jesus. He empowers God's children to live the life of faith, cleanses us from the old nature and conforms us to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, after conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and yields spiritual fruit and gifts.*

**The Atonement.** *The undeserving substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross satisfied God's required penalty for the sins of the whole world. The benefits of his death and God's satisfaction are only applicable to those who, by faith, receive Jesus as personal Savior. His restorative sacrifice makes wholeness of body, soul and spirit available to those who believe.*

**Salvation.** *Salvation is a free gift God lovingly gives to those who willingly repent from sin, confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that He has been raised from death. Salvation gives birth to a new creation in Jesus Christ the Son. Water baptism is the outward and obedient sign of what God has already done in our lives and is a testimony to others of the new life we've received through Jesus.*

**The Christian Life.** *New Life in Jesus is qualified by being adopted as a child by God the true Father and living as an heir to His Kingdom. God the Father provides completely for His children and His promises never expire. Through salvation, His children are reborn into God's Kingdom as infants. As God's children, our lives on earth are to reflect growth and maturity into His image as we increasingly obey through faith in His word and experience renewal of our mind. New Life in Jesus is to be lived in relationship with others who are also experiencing this new life. The Christian life is subject to trials, tests and warfare against a spiritual enemy who persistently seeks to lure us into sinful behavior and independence from God. Victory over these trials, tests and attacks is made available by faith through Jesus' work on the cross, faith in God's word and the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**The Church.** *The Church is a family of God's children who receive and exercise spiritual gifts and abilities for edifying the Church and expanding God's Kingdom on the earth. The goal of the Church is to make disciples of all nations and to mature God's children into His*

*image. The Church is governed by the office of Elder, which is responsible for family oversight, guidance and discipline.*

**The Lord's Supper.** *The Lord's Supper, or communion, is observed regularly among the family of God's children in remembrance of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Son. Communion reminds us of the love demonstrated by God for His children and the benefits He avails to us because we are now His.*

**End Times.** *We affirm the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of His children, the millennium and the final judgment. The final judgment will determine the eternal destiny of all people, according to their relationship to Jesus Christ the Son. In the end, God will recreate a new heaven and a new earth.*

**Statement of Marriage.** *Based on the teaching of the Scriptures, "marriage" is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world and intended as a lifelong, covenantal union of one man and one woman. Therefore, our teaching about marriage seeks to support and strengthen the institution as God defined it. The use of all church facilities will also be in keeping with this understanding of marriage. It is also the policy of this church that members of the church staff will only officiate at marriages between a man and a woman.*