



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## Preamble to the Statement of Faith

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Chapel doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the eldership of Chapel by the Sea is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application governing all aspects of the Chapel's ministry including the use of its grounds and facilities.

### A. One Triune God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, who are co-equal and co-identical in essence, nature, power, and attributes. (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; 28: 19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

We believe that the distinctive ministries of each Person of the triune God are revealed in His work of redemption:

1. God the Father provided salvation: (John 3:16; Romans 6:23)
2. God the Son purchased salvation by His incarnation death, burial, and resurrection: (Isaiah 7:14; I Peter 1:18-19; Romans 1:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22)
3. God the Holy Spirit produces salvation and seals believers in Christ: (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:13-14)

### B. The Deity of Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh possessing all the attributes and essence of Deity and perfect humanity. Born of the Virgin Mary, He is fully God and fully man, the two natures indissolubly united in one Person. Sinless in all aspects, Christ was the perfect Lamb of God whose death, burial, and resurrection provide eternal life for all who receive Him by faith. (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 18; 8:58; 10:30; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:8).

### **C. The Holy Scriptures**

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments to be the eternal, verbal, complete, and inspired word of God. Fully trustworthy, it is sufficient as the final and infallible authority for faith and practice. (Isaiah 40:8; Psalms 119:89, 105; John 6:63; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21, Galatians 1:6-10).

### **D. The Sinfulness of Man**

We believe that every person is inherently sinful and is born in a state of alienation and willful rebellion against God. Mankind is utterly unable to remedy this lost condition, the consequence of which is eternal death spent in a literal hell (Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23a; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Titus 3:4-5).

### **E. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is offered as a gift of God's grace and is received through faith alone by trusting solely in the merit of Jesus Christ's finished work of atonement. Through His shed blood on Calvary's cross, He paid the full penalty for mankind's sin making forgiveness and reconciliation with God possible for and accessible to mankind (John 1:12; 3:16-17; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

### **F. A Holy Life**

We believe that those who have received Christ as Savior and Lord will be continually transformed in their lives and attitudes, and that they will, under the power of the Holy Spirit, strive to live to the glory of God (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 2: 11-14; 1 John 3:4-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

### **G. The Church**

We believe that the true Church is established by Christ and is composed of people who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the head. We also believe that local assemblies of Christians should be established for edification, for the building up of the Body of Christ, and for the observance of the ordinances of Communion and Baptism\* (Matthew 16:18, 28:19-20; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:11-16; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 11 :23-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:8).

\* We practice baptism by immersion.

### **H. Commission to Evangelize**

We believe that those who have never heard or have never believed the Gospel are lost in sin and are guilty and condemned to eternal death. It is therefore our divine commission to lovingly preach and persuade people everywhere of the truth of the Gospel, according to God's enabling. (John 3:16-18; 20:21-22; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; 5:18-20; Luke 24:46- 49; 1 Peter 3:15)

## **I. The Return of Christ/End Times**

We believe in the literal, personal, imminent, and pre-millennial return of Christ for the church. We believe that all people shall rise bodily from the grave - the saved to eternal life in Heaven with Christ, and the unsaved to face everlasting punishment in a literal Hell for their sins. (Job 19:25-27; Matthew 25:46; Luke 24:39; John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:42; John 6:39; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:11-15).

## **J. Satan**

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the enemy of God. Though a creature and finite in power and knowledge, Satan is the deceiver, accuser of the believer, and destroyer of people. While given temporary and limited dominion over the world by God, he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire after Christ's millennial reign (Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9; 20:10).

## **K. Assurance**

We believe that the positive assurance of salvation is the heritage of every child of God predestined unto salvation, and that we are eternally and securely kept by God's power, preserved unto the day we are taken to Heaven. (John 6:37, 10:28; 1 John 4: 13, 5: 13; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:14, 28-36; Ephesians 1:3-14; Philippians 1:6).

## **L. The Ministry and the Gifts**

We believe that in order to perfect the Church for its ministry, God has given various gifts to the individual members of the Church and that the spiritual gifts, when exercised in love, will unite believers and edify the Body. We believe that all who trust in Christ have at least one spiritual gift and that all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit having been baptized by the Spirit into the Body of Christ.\* (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12-14, 29-30, 13:8; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

\*We do not believe the Scripture teaches that speaking in tongues is a necessary accompaniment of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor that it is a sign of spiritual maturity.

## **M. Marriage and Sexuality**

We believe that 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 (Genesis 1:1; 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33).

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Exodus 20:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 7:1-3; Hebrews 13:4).

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, polygamy, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God (Genesis 1:27; 2:18; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Matthew 5:27-28; Hebrews 13:4; 1 John 2:16)

We believe that 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 Chapel in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly (1 Peter 5:1-3; Matthew 18:1-6) .

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Corinthians 6:11; 1 John 1:9)

We believe that 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 (Romans 5:6-11; Titus 3:1-8; 1 Peter 2:17).

END OF STATEMENT OF FAITH