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ARTICLE III

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

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(An annotated version with Scripture proofs is also available.)

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THE BIBLE

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1. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

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GOD

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2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

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THE HUMAN CONDITION

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3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

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JESUS CHRIST

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4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

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119 THE WORK OF CHRIST

120 5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed
121 His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our
122 sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only
123 ground for salvation and the eternal security of those who believe in
124 him.

125 THE HOLY SPIRIT

126 6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord
127 Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners,
128 and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as
129 heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides,
130 equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

131 THE CHURCH

132 7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified
133 by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by
134 the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The
135 true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should
136 be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two
137 ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and
138 tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means
139 of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these
140 ordinances confirm and nourish the believer. Baptism shall be by
141 immersion and for believers only.

142 CHRISTIAN LIVING

143 8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His
144 sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him
145 supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care
146 for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the
147 oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in
148 Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In
149 obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among
150 all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

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153 SATAN

154 9. We believe that Satan is a being created by God, who rebelled against
 155 his creator and deceived mankind into sin, was defeated at the cross,
 156 and will be eternally punished.

157 CHRIST'S RETURN

158 10. We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our
 159 Lord Jesus Christ preceded by a time of tribulation. The coming of
 160 Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy
 161 and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living,
 162 sacrificial service and energetic mission.

163 RESPONSE AND ETERNAL DESTINY

164 11. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the
 165 gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus
 166 Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the
 167 world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal
 168 conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy
 169 with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of
 170 His glorious grace. Amen.

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ARTICLE IV

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AUTHORITY OF THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

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176 Our statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith because the
 177 Bible is the final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that
 178 the statement of faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and,
 179 therefore, is binding upon all members, staff, and volunteers.

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