Doctrinal Statement of Hollywood Church

In Essential Beliefs - We Have Unity

There is one body and one Spirit.... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
Ephesians 4:4-6

In Non-Essential Beliefs - We Have Liberty

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.....Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls....So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.....Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God.
Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

We believe the Bible to be our entire statement of faith, a representative doctrinal statement is printed below to aid current and prospective members in knowing what we believe.

1. THE BIBLE: We believe the entire Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God and we seek to order our church and live pure lives thereby.

2. GOD: We believe that there is one God, the creator of heaven and earth, who is an infinite and eternal Spirit and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. God exists in three persons - the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

3. JESUS: We believe that Jesus is God who embodied human flesh as the Son of God and is co-equal with the Father. We believe in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His substitutionary sacrifice for man's sin on the cross of Calvary, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His future return in power and great glory.

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose ministry to the world is the conviction of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement and whose indwelling ministry to the saints is the empowerment to live a Godly life, dedicated to serving Christ and His Church.

5. WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe one receives the Holy Spirit by believing on Christ (John 7:37-39; Acts 2:38; Acts 1l:l5-17; Romans 8:9). Jesus Christ is the one who baptizes us with the Spirit (Matthew 3:11-12). To be baptized with the Holy Spirit means that Christ places us by means of the Spirit, in union with Himself and His church (I Corinthians 12:12-13) and places the Holy Spirit within the believer. The evidence of having received the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit places within the life of the believer Spiritual Gift(s) with which to serve God and the Church. Though the

baptism with the Spirit is a one-time experience, the filling with the Spirit is a repeated reality as we live so as not to grieve or quench the Spirit.

6. HUMAN BEINGS: We believe people are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sin. This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

7. SALVATION: We believe in salvation by God's grace through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. We believe this new birth is the result of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and is evidenced by a changed life, submitted to the Lordship of Christ. All those saved by God will endure to the end and will never be cast out.

8. ETERNAL SECURITY: We believe God gives eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for all time and eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot lose your salvation. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that give us that security.

9. THE FUTURE: We believe that at the end of time the dead will be raised and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unsaved will be consigned to hell and the righteous will dwell forever in heaven with the Lord. 9. ETERNITY: People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

10. THE CHURCH: We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Body of Christ who is the head of the Church.

A. **The Universal Church of Jesus Christ** consists of those who have personally believed on the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:13-14), who are born again, and baptized into His Body by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). These believers constitute the Body or the Bride of Christ (I Cor. 12:12-27); Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-10; 21:2). This universal church consists of individual believers meeting and worshiping as groups of believers anywhere in the world (Heb. 10:25; Rev. 5:9-10). No one belongs to the church of Jesus Christ universal simply by virtue of belonging to a local Bible-believing and Bible-preaching church. In spite of minor doctrinal differences and practices existing among local churches, members of the body of Christ are to love, appreciate and bear the burdens of other Christians (John 15:12; 1 Thess. 4:9-10; Rom. 15:1-7).

B. **The Local Church.** In the New Testament, there were churches made up of individual believers who lived in certain areas which constituted the church at Corinth, at Berea, at Philippi, etc. It is in this sense that Hollywood Church exists and is known as such. The local church is composed of born-again believers who have voluntarily united together for the purposes of worshiping God, ministering to the saints (fellow believers), evangelizing the world, and discipling new believers (Acts 2:42; 1 Thess. 1:2-10). It provides an opportunity for those who are of the same mind in Christ to meet together for the study of God's Word, common prayer, social contact and mutual uplifting (Heb. 10:25). Hollywood Church will never seek to exclude from its more general fellowship other believers who may belong to other churches or other denominations or who may differ from us in minor matters but nevertheless belong to the Body of Christ.

C. **The Autonomy of Each Local Church.** Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from denominational control.

D. **The Priesthood of Every Believer.** The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to full time Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

HOLLYWOOD
CHURCH