

## STATEMENT OF FAITH (DOCTRINE)

### Section A: THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the entire Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments equally, to be the verbally inspired Word of God in the original manuscripts. By this, we understand that the Holy Spirit not only inspired the thought of the writers, but also formulated the very word structure into which the thoughts were cast, with the result that the original documents were inerrant as to fact and infallible as to truth; that the Holy Spirit guided in the transmission and preservation of the sacred text so that we have what is essentially the original text. It has supreme and inerrant authority in all matters of faith and conduct. It shall be interpreted literally, grammatically, historically, and dispensationally, but is the best interpreter of itself with the light given by the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 5:18; John 16:12-15; Acts 1:16; I Cor. 2:13; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21)

### Section B: THE GODHEAD

We believe in one Triune God, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; each having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and each worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience. (Gen. 1:26; 3:22; Deut. 6:4-5; Matt. 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4, 14; Acts 5:3-4; II Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:4-6)

#### 1. THE PERSON OF THE FATHER

- a. From Him the whole family of believers in heaven and on earth derives its name. (Eph. 3:15)
- b. The Son proceeds from and is sent of the Father. (John 8:42)
- c. The Holy Spirit is sent of the Father and the Son. (John 14:16, 26; 16:7)

#### 2. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE SON

- a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, existing eternally as the second person of the Trinity was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and that in His person true and proper deity was united with perfect and sinless humanity. (Matt. 1:18, 22-23; Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 2, 14)
- b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood, His death on the cross as a propitiatory and substitutionary sacrifice, and that by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead our justification is made sure. (Rom. 3:24-25; 4:25; Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:3-5, 18-19; 2:24)
- c. We believe that the Lord Jesus is now in heaven exalted at the right hand of God. There, as High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministries of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:19-23; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; I John 2:1-2)
- d. We believe in the premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ, first to receive His own unto Himself, and then to set up the promised Messianic Kingdom. (Zech. 14:4-11; Acts 1:6, 11; Rom. 11:25-27; I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:6)

#### 3. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- a. We believe that the Holy Spirit, existing eternally as the third person of the divine

Trinity, took up His abode in the world in a special sense on the Day of Pentecost. (John 14:16-17; 16:7-15; I Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:22)

- b. We believe that throughout this present age of grace, His ministry in regard to the world is that of restraining evil according to the measure of the divine will and in convicting the world in respect to sin, righteousness, and judgement. (John 16:7-11; II Thess. 2:7)
- c. We believe that His ministries to all believers at conversion include that of regeneration, indwelling, anointing, of being the earnest, the sealing, and the means whereby every believer is baptized into the true church which is Christ's Body. We believe further that by His continued filling, the believer, who is yielded, may experience victory, a deepening sanctification, and an increased capacity to worship and serve. (John 3:6; Rom. 8:9; 12:1-2; I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I John 2:20-27)

### Section C: MAN'S CREATION, FALL, AND DEPRAVITY

1. We believe that man was originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, but through Adam's sin of disobedience he fell from his high and holy estate, and as a consequence of his transgression, became a sinner by nature, became alienated from God, and became subject to the devil. (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:17; Isa. 64:6; John 5:40; Eph. 2:1-3, 12; I John 3:8)
2. We believe further that this fall deprived man of spiritual life and rendered him devoid of any native ability to enter the kingdom of God, and that a fallen nature was transmitted to all men with the exception of the Man Christ Jesus. As a result, man is essentially and unchangeably morally deficient, apart from Divine grace, and is of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost and hell-bound condition. (Gen. 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jer. 17:9; John 3:6; Rom. 3:22-24; 5:12-19; 8:7)
3. We believe that owing to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again of the Spirit of God, thereby becoming a partaker of the divine life and nature. (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Pet. 1:23; II Pet. 1:4; I John 5:1)

### Section D: SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST ALONE

1. We believe that the believing sinner is saved and justified forever through infinite grace upon the sole condition of faith, and that our redemption was accomplished only by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and a curse for us, dying in the sinner's place. Also, that by the new birth, the unregenerate person passes instantaneously out of spiritual death into spiritual life and from the old creation into the new. Further, that although the saved person may grow in grace as he yields his life more fully to God, he is nevertheless, absolutely complete in Christ and blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ as soon as he is saved. (John 1:12; 5:24; 20:31; Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1; Eph. 1:3, 7; 2:8-10; Col. 2:10; Titus 2:11-14; I Pet. 1:18-19; 17:23)
2. We believe that all believers everywhere, having been born of the Holy Spirit, are now partakers of eternal life and "are sealed unto the day of redemption." (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; 17:11; Rom. 8:1, 29; I Cor. 1:8; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 7:25; I Pet. 1:5; Jude 24)
3. We believe that it is the present privilege of all believers to rest in the Biblical assurance of their present salvation. (John 1:12; 5:24; Phil. 1:6; II Tim. 1:12; I John 5:11-13)

#### Section E: THE BELIEVER'S SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the experience of believers wherein they are to grow in grace by the unhindered ministry of the Holy Spirit, and although the old nature cannot be eradicated in this life, they can have victory over it through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (John 17:17; II Cor. 3:18; I Thess 5:23-24)

#### Section F: THE BELIEVER'S SERVICE AND REWARD

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit bestows gifts upon all who are saved. These gifts may differ according to the divinely appointed task and service, yet each believer is energized by the same Holy Spirit to fulfill his function in the true Church which is Christ's Body, and in the local assembly which is the visible manifestation of the Church universal. (Rom. 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:4-31)
2. We believe that rewards are promised according to the faithfulness of each believer for his service for the Lord, and that these rewards will be bestowed at the judgment seat of Christ. (I Cor. 3:9-15; II Cor. 5:10)

#### Section G: THE CHURCH

1. We believe that the true Church is made up of all born again persons whom the Holy Spirit unites to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that, by the baptism with the Holy Spirit, every believer is placed into the body. (I Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27; Col. 2:19)
2. We believe that the New Testament teaches the establishment and continuance of local churches in the present age of grace. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Tim. 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-11)
  - a. That believer's baptism (immersion) and the Lord's Table are the Scriptural ordinances practiced regularly by LCCC. (Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 10:47-48; 16:32-33; 18:7-8; I Cor. 11:26) The dedication of children is recommended.
  - b. That it is the imperative responsibility of the local church to collectively and individually witness by life and word of mouth and to seek to evangelize the whole world with the Gospel of the grace of God. (Matt. 28:18-19; Mark 16:15; John 17:18; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 9:16; II Cor. 5:18-20)
  - c. That the local church is autonomous and self-governing under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, through Pastors whom it may ordain or license, and Elders and Deacons, to whom the membership looks for instruction, inspiration, example, counsel, and discipline. (Acts 20:18-35; I Tim. 3; Titus 2; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 5:3-4)
  - d. That the local assembly should fellowship and cooperate on as broad a scale as is possible with other Bible believing churches.

#### Section H: ANGELS

1. We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless, spiritual beings, known as angels; that one, "Lucifer, son of the morning", the highest in rank, sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan; that a great company of the angels followed him in his moral fall, some of whom became demons and are active as his agents and

associates in the prosecution of his unholy purposes, while others who fell are “reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” (Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; I Tim. 3:6; II Pet. 2:4; Jude 1:6)

2. We believe Satan is the originator of sin and under the permission of God, subtly led Adam and Eve into transgression resulting in their moral fall. This fall subjected them and all mankind to his own power. Satan is the enemy of God and God’s own people. Satan exalts himself above all that is called God or is worshiped. He appears as an angel of light even counterfeiting the works of God by fostering religious movements and systems of doctrine. In every case, these systems deny the effectiveness of the blood of Christ and of salvation by grace alone. (Gen. 3:1-19; Rom. 5:12-14; II Cor. 4:3-4; 11:13-15; Eph. 6:10-12; II Thess. 2:4; I Tim. 4:1-3)
3. We believe that Satan was judged at the cross (with the execution of this judgment deferred) and that he, a usurper, now rules as the “god of this world”; that at the second coming of Christ, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years, after which he will be loosed for a little season and then “cast into the lake of fire and brimstone”, where he “shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Col. 2:15; Rev. 20:1-3, 10)
4. We believe that a great company of angels kept their holy estate and are before the throne of God, from whence they are sent forth as “ministering spirits to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.” (Psa. 34:7; 91:11; Dan. 6:22; Matt. 18:10; Acts 5:19; Heb. 1:14)
5. We believe that man was made lower than the angels, and that in His incarnation, Christ took for a time, this lower place that He might lift the believer to His own sphere above the angels. (Heb.2:7-9)

#### Section I: THE RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING

1. We believe that the next great event, (“that blessed hope”) in the fulfillment of prophecy, will be the coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself into heaven both his own who are alive and remain until His coming, and all who have fallen asleep in Jesus. (John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-52; Phil. 3:20; I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14)
2. We believe that the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth will climax the great tribulation period and that He will then set up the promised Millennial Kingdom on earth. (II Sam. 7:16; Psa. 72:7-8; Isa. 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 15:16-17; Rom. 8:19-23; 11:25-27; Rev. 19:11-21)

#### Section J: THE ETERNAL STATE

1. We believe that all men shall be resurrected bodily, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to eternal damnation. (John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev. 5, 6, 12, 13)
2. We believe that at the death of the saved, spirit and soul are absent from the body and present with the Lord where they await in conscious joy the first resurrection when spirit and soul shall be reunited with a glorified body and will forever be with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 6:9-11; 20:4-6)
3. We believe that at the death of the unsaved, spirit and soul remain in conscious misery after death, until the second resurrection, when the spirit, soul, and body are reunited, the unsaved shall stand at the Great White Throne Judgment to be judged according to their works. Then they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated but to

be punished with everlasting conscious torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; John 5:28-29; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

#### Section K: RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe that every human being has direct responsibility to God. Therefore, Church and State must be separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its respective duties, free from dictation of the other; that it is the responsibility of the Christian to respect, obey, and pray for those who are in governmental authority. (Rom. 13:1-8; I Tim. 2:1-3; I Pet. 2:13-17)

#### Section L: MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

All weddings held at Lake City Community Church are considered worship services for the purpose of glorifying God and being an illustration of the spiritual union between Christ and His church.

1. We believe that marriage was instituted by God and that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a lifelong, single, exclusive covenant union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25; Mal. 2:14; Rom. 7:2). We believe that God intends for sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18-7:5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4).
2. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (some examples include adultery, polygamy, fornication, pedophilia, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:19-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:24-32).
3. Divorce is a violation of God's expressed purpose for marriage and is clearly not God's will (Mal. 2:16; Matt. 19:8; 1 Cor. 7:10-11). While divorce is not encouraged, Jesus said that God permits divorce in the event of marital unfaithfulness (Matt. 5:32; 19:9) and/or abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor. 7:15).
4. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27, 31; Rom. 1:24-27). Any attempt to change gender in disagreement with one's genetically defined gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person, and thus is offensive to God.
5. We believe that in order to be obedient to God's commandments regarding marriage, gender, and sexuality as expressed in Scripture, and to preserve the function, unity, and integrity of LCCC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to LCCC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by LCCC in any capacity, or who serve as a volunteer, must agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Tim. 3:2).

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 (Rom. 5:1-21; 8:1-39; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). We also believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, and dignity. Any behavior inconsistent with these values is to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of LCCC (Eph. 4:29-32; 1 Thess. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:11-25).

#### Section M: SANCTITY OF LIFE

1. We believe that a human life begins at conception. God has created all people in His image, they belong to Him, and He knows us from the moment of conception.(Gen. 1:27; Job 31:15; Ps. 51:5; 100:3; 139:13-16; Is. 64:8; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).
2. We believe that God has the exclusive right over life and death. (Ex. 20:13; Deut. 32:39) God values the life of the unborn and considers each of them a living person (Ex. 21:22-25) Euthanasia and assisted suicide are not natural means of death and should be viewed as the taking of life.
3. We believe that God views abortion as the shedding of innocent blood. His Word states that He hates the shedding of innocent blood. (Gen. 4:10; 9:6; 2 Kings 24:3-4; Prov. 6:16-17)