

*finalized December 2018*

### **Gospel**

We believe the good news of Jesus Christ offers us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life when we die and also, the potential of entering into an eternal kingdom life now, to be transformed by God beginning here on earth today.

### **Baptism**

We believe baptism is an act of obedience by believers and serves as a public confession of faith by signifying our union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and our fellowship with His church. At Open Door, we practice baptism by immersion for believers.

### **Communion**

We celebrate communion in obedience to Christ's command and believe the elements of bread and wine both symbolize the body and blood of Christ and mysteriously extend to us the life of God, when received in faith. We invite all who desire this life in God through Jesus to share communion at our table.

### **Infilling by the Holy Spirit**

We believe the Holy Spirit is active in the life of every believer, transforming them into Christ's likeness to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts, such as tongues, healing, prophesy, and words of knowledge, are legitimate manifestations of the Holy Spirit and are given to believers, according to the will of God, to do the mission of God. While we encourage believers to desire the gifts of the Spirit, we believe the evidence of a life transformed is the fruit of the Spirit.

### **Partnership of Women and Men in Ministry**

We believe that God created men and women to equally bear God's image. The Holy Spirit bestows gifts on men and women alike and every believer is free to exercise his or her gifts for the benefit of the Body of Christ and for the sake of the world. We encourage women to serve in any and every position of church leadership according to their gifting and call.

### **The Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe all human life is sacred and bears the image of God. As such, we advocate for the well-being of all humans and we stand against all ways human life, regardless of race, gender, age, socioeconomic status, and ability, is disrespected and degraded.

### **Marriage and Sexual Purity**

We believe God's ideal for human sexuality is that it be expressed only within the bounds of a monogamous, heterosexual marriage covenant. We also recognize the challenging dynamics of human sexuality and, as a people who pursue the struggle to become fully alive in God, seek to navigate this struggle with grace and truth.

### **Divorce and Remarriage**

We believe God established the covenant of marriage to be a sacred union however, due to our human brokenness, divorce at times occurs and is permitted by Scripture. Any marriage, including remarriage after divorce, should be entered into with prayer and counsel from the couple's community. We do not believe divorce, in and of itself, permanently disqualifies anyone from leadership in the church.