

ARTICLE 4 – ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the following Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the Church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith, and are reflected in the following clear statements:

4.1 The Bible - We believe in the plenary-verbal (word for word) inspiration of the accepted canon of the Scriptures and that they are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error in all matters with which they deal, including scientific and historical as well as moral and theological. (*2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13*).

4.2 God - We believe in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as ONE God existing in THREE persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; distinguished but indivisible (*Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14*).

4.3 Creation - We believe in the creation of the existing universe and all of its basic systems as indicated in Genesis. (*Genesis 1:1-25*).

4.4 Biblical History - We believe in the full account of the Biblical record of history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, original sin, resultant curse, and continuing decline and degradation of all creation. (*Genesis 1-11*).

4.5 Fall of Man - We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness (*Romans 5:12, 5:18; Genesis 3:1-24*).

4.6 The Virgin Birth - We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very man (*Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6*).

4.7 Salvation and Resurrection - We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day, and personally appeared to His disciples (*1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 4:25*). We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Calvary by which we obtain remission of sins (*Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12, 9:22; Romans 5:11*).

4.8 Second Coming - We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation and personal, literal, and bodily coming again the second time for the Church (*John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*).

4.9 Water Baptism - We believe in water baptism by immersion in the name of the Eternal Godhead in order to fulfill the command of Christ (*Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39, 19:1-6*).

4.10 Baptism In The Holy Spirit - We believe in the Baptism In The Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation and a distinct aspect of the Christian foundational experience, made evident by Spiritual Gifts and empowerment as indicated in scripture (*Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16, Acts 2:1-4, 8:14-17, 10:44-46, 19:6*).

4.11 Spiritual Gifts - We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12-14, as manifested in the Early Church.

4.12 Spirit-Filled Life - We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and perfecting of holiness in the fear of the God as an expression of Christian Faith (*Ephesians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 6:14, 7:1*).

4.13 Healing - We believe in the healing of the body by Divine power, or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practiced in the Early Church (*Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14*).

4.14 Communion - We believe in the Table of the Lord, commonly called Communion or the Lord's Supper, (*1 Corinthians 11:23-32*).

4.15 Eternity - We believe in eternal life for believers (*John 3:16; 5:24*) and eternal punishment for unbelievers (*Mark 9:43-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15*).

4.16 Church - We believe that the Church is comprised of people joined together by the confession of faith in Jesus Christ and is the vehicle by which God is revealing Himself and exercising His authority on the Earth today. The Church is seen through the assembly of believers in a specific location or local Church. The local Church is autonomous under the Lordship of Christ and is governed by locally appointed leadership. (*Acts 15:22, 20:28; with Matthew 16:18; 18:15-20, Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 4:11, 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14*)

4.17 Satan - We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and eternal judgment of Satan and his angels (*Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15*).

4.18 Human Condition - We believe that all people are born sinners and only by personally accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, do we receive forgiveness of sin and have everlasting life. (*Romans 3:23; Colossians 1:13-14*)

4.19 We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the Church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (*Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14*)

4.20 Government - We believe that the Biblical form of Church government is a plural Eldership, with a Lead Pastor/Elder, who qualify on the basis of Spiritual Life, personal character, domestic life and leadership ability. (*1 Timothy 3; Titus 1;*)

4.21 Spiritual Maturity - We hold that the Body of Christ is equipped and matured by the function of the Five Fold Ministry Gifts. (*Ephesians 4:11-13*)

4.22 Sex, Marriage & Gender - We believe that God created sex as a gift to be shared only in the context of a marriage between one man and one woman. Any sexual activity

outside of marriage, such as adultery, fornication, or homosexual activity, is sinful and forbidden by Scripture. We believe that an individual's gender is determined by God and no one should attempt to alter his or her gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 1:5, 2:24, 19:5-13, 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:24-32; I Corinthians 5:1-5; 6:9-20; 7:10; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4, Ephesians 5:22-23.).

4.23 Tithes & Offerings – We Believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving for all believers, but that every Christian should also give other offerings as prompted by the Lord, sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that the tithe specifically belongs to the Lord and therefore is not designated for a specific use as the giver chooses. All rights to direct the specific use of tithe and offerings are relinquished once the gift has been given. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

4.24 Eternal Salvation & Judgment - We believe in eternal life for believers (*John 3:16; 5:24*) and eternal punishment for unbelievers (*Mark 9:43-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15*).