



## Purpose and Statement of Faith

The object of this church shall be to carry out as fully as possible the purpose of our Lord Jesus Christ, who made the church to be His earthly body, to witness for Him in our community; and to the fullest possible extent throughout the whole world; to observe His ordinances, and to seek to build up His people in all spiritual grace. While accepting the Bible, God's Word, to be our only authority in faith and practice, we make the following declaration of belief:

### I. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe the Bible to be the only Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and having supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

### II. THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

### III. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayers and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

### IV. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary, atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth.

### V. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

### VI. REGENERATION

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation and that there are no good deeds that a person can do to free himself from condemnation. We believe that those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and trust in Him by faith as the only way to salvation are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

### VII. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, and the eternal peace and joy of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

### VIII. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church: a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church: consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

### IX. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe this church can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ in cooperation with other churches or groups of like faith. Such cooperation is on a voluntary basis, and only with such churches or groups as hold the basic beliefs of the Christian faith as expressed in the first seven articles in the declaration of belief. Any cooperation must be of such nature that the autonomy of the church is maintained at all times.