

## **Article 3: Statement of Faith**

### ***The Trinity***

We believe in the mystery of the triune God. God eternally exists in three persons— the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same honor, confidence, and obedience. All that we do is to the Glory of God. (Matthew 28:19, 2 Cor.13:14; Hebrews 9:14)

### ***The Bible***

We believe that the Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

### ***Jesus Christ***

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, our Savior. Jesus is both fully God and fully Man. Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, died, taking our place and penalty on the cross, and rose bodily, on the third day. Salvation is through Christ alone. (Matthew 1:20-23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-3)

### ***Human Sin***

We believe that all people, though created in the image of God, share in Adam's fall and are now sinful, lost and condemned. Each human, by nature and choice, commits sin, and needs redemption through Christ's death and resurrection. We must have a Savior. (John 3:3-5; Romans 3:23-25; Ephesians 2:1-5)

### ***Salvation***

We believe that God offers forgiveness of sin and new birth through faith in Christ's completed work on the cross. Those who repent of their sins and trust in Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Salvation is by God's grace alone, apart from works. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5)

### ***The Church***

We believe that all people who have been united with Christ are members of Christ's universal church, the Body and Bride of Christ. We also believe that Christ gathers us in local communities, where members love and serve one another, grow together, keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and dedicate themselves to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. (Matthew 16:16-18, Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:1-3)

### ***Baptism and The Lord's Supper***

We believe upon coming to faith a new believer is to express his or her faith in Jesus Christ by being immersed in water; we call this Baptism. The Lord's Supper is a celebration, reminding us of God's promise to forgive our sins through what Jesus did on the cross. We believe that

these two practices should be observed until the return of the Lord Jesus. (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor.11:23-26)

### ***Last Things***

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to Earth and the establishment of His kingdom. Believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God as they participate in the fullness of His eternal reign, while unbelievers will suffer eternal separation from God. (Matthew 24-25; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)