

Articles of Faith

1. Statement of Biblical Authority

The Gospel is the revelation of the person and work of Jesus Christ, and that revelation is most clearly and authoritatively communicated through the Bible. We, therefore, make the following Affirmations:

1. We affirm the Bible as the final authority for the faith, doctrine, conduct, and morality of the followers of Jesus Christ.
2. We affirm that these Articles of Faith were generated from careful study of the Bible and are intended to communicate the truths of the Bible.
3. It is the Bible that speaks with final authority concerning the truth we need for godly living.
4. For purposes of Church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Elders is the Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

2. Statement of Basic Beliefs

The following Statement of Basic Beliefs represents the core orthodox beliefs of the Church. It is expected that the Members of the Church will voice general affirmation of this Statement. While members of the Church are not required to fully understand or articulate all aspects of these beliefs, the explicit rejection of any part of this Statement of Basic Beliefs will disqualify an individual from membership in the Church:

1. The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are inspired by God and are the infallible rule of faith and conduct.
2. There is one eternally self-existent God, who has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of a virgin; He was fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death and then rose bodily from the dead. He is now seated at the right hand of God, and will come again to receive His Church and reward every man according to his works.
4. Salvation is the gift of God by grace alone and is received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and genuine repentance from sin.
5. Water baptism by immersion is the symbol of the believer's identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It is a direct commandment from the Lord for all believers.
6. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit are available for all believers as induements for life and service subsequent to conversion.
7. Divine healing is the operation of the power of God to heal the sick and afflicted. It is provided for by Christ's atonement and is accomplished by the power of God.

8. When Christ returns, the dead will be resurrected. Eternal salvation will be the inheritance of the believers and eternal damnation and punishment that of the unbelievers.
9. There is one universal Church with Christ as its head. This Church is comprised of all true believers, regardless of denominational affiliation.
10. In the local church, believers from a particular geographic locality are joined together, submitting to the authority of the Scriptures and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They receive feeding, oversight, care and instruction from recognized leaders. They glorify God through corporate worship, prayer, evangelism, teaching, and fellowship as they care for and serve one another, receiving new converts into the church and nurturing them in the faith.

3. Statement on Marriage & Sexuality

1. It is the Biblical position that marriage involves the union of one man and one woman in a life-long and sacred covenant. The term “marriage” has only one meaning: it is a union sanctioned by God, one which joins one man with one woman. Furthermore, God has designed sexual intimacy to be properly exercised within the confines of the marriage relationship only. God has commanded that no person engage in intimate sexual activity outside of marriage. In particular, we affirm that sexual intimacy enjoyed in the context of God’s design is a beautiful part of His design but that any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to adultery, fornication, and homosexuality, as well as incest and pedophilia, is sinful and offensive to God.
2. We believe that sexual expression outside of marriage, like all sin, is egregious. We also believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sins. He is a God of mercy, offering forgiveness and restoration through Jesus Christ.
3. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church, it is imperative that all Members of the Church, all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, and all persons who serve as volunteers in any ministry operated by the Church abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage & Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.
4. The Board of Elders shall have the authority to prohibit any Church facilities, property, or other assets of any kind that are subject to the direction or control of the Church to be used in any manner that the Board of Elders would consider inconsistent with this Statement on Marriage & Sexuality. This includes the use of any Church facilities, property, or other assets of the Church by any person, organization, corporation, or group that might use them to convey or imply a favorable impression of any definition of marriage inconsistent with this Statement on Marriage & Sexuality.