

## **Faith Statement: What we believe**

Our Faith Statement is intended to lay a foundation for belief and unity. There will always be secondary doctrines that Christians disagree upon, but there are core beliefs that are non-negotiable for those who embrace historic Christianity. The church receives the scriptures as the inspired Word of God and the New Testament as its sole authority in matters of faith and practice. "In the essentials we need unity, in the non-essentials we need freedom; but in all things we need love." - Rupertus Meldenius

### **THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that the Old and New Testament were written by men divinely inspired and are the only sufficient and perfect rule of inerrancy and infallibility of the original writings. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

### **THE TRINITY**

We believe that there is one true God, and only one, who is self-existent, eternal and infinite in every excellence, and who has revealed himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are the same in essence, though distinct in personality. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Genesis 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Corinthians 13:14)

### **JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Godhead. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for humankind and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory. (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; John 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13)

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and Son as God. He is present in the world to make mankind aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, guidance in doing what is right, and spiritual gifts. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:1)

## **MANKIND**

We believe that man was created innocent, but that by disobedience to the command of God, he fell into sin, thereby losing his innocence and becoming subject to death and the eternal wrath of God. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:10,23, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Isaiah 59:1-2)

## **THE WAY OF SALVATION**

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man, came into the world to save men from the guilt and condemnation of sin, offering His blood as a vicarious atonement and making it available to all who exercise faith to Him. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)

## **JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that the result of a genuine heart, acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior is justification whereby pardon from sin is secured and we are brought into a state of peace and favor with God, and that the human response by which this state is secured is repentance and faith whereby one turns to God in sincere contrition and accepts Jesus Christ as the only all sufficient Savior and Lord. (Isaiah 53:11; Galatians 2:16-17, 3:8,11,24; Acts 13:39; Romans 3:24-4:2, 5:1,9, 8:30, 10:10; Genesis 15:6; Titus 3:7)

## **THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS**

We believe that nothing can separate true believers from the love of God because they are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation, and that consequently their persevering attachment to Christ is the one mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors. (Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:28-39; John 10:27-30; John 6:37-47; John 5:24; 1 John 2:19; Matthew 7:21-22; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10; Revelation 14:9-12)

## **BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that the ordinances of the Gospel are baptism and the Lord's Supper; that baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" to show forth our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life in Christ; and that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of the death to sin and our resurrection to a new life in Christ; with the elements symbolizing His body broken and His blood shed for us; and we encourage all who credibly profess faith in Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior to participate with us in our observances of the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; John 3:5,22, 4:1-2; Acts 1:5; Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-20; 1 Corinthians 10:21, 11:23-32)

## **THE CHURCH**

We believe that the Church Spiritual includes the whole company of believers of whatever age, name, or country and that it is known only to God; and that the Church Local is a company of believers baptized in the name of the true God and observing the forms, ordinances, and principles laid down in the New Testament. (Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:9-13; Ephesians 4:11-16)

## **CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that the civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in matters opposed to the will of Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of the kings of the earth. (1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 1:1, 2:13-14,17; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 1:1; Acts 4:19-20; 5:27-32; Philippians 3:20)

## **THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST**

We believe in the personal and physical return of the Lord Jesus Christ to take all believers to be with Him for eternity. (1 John 3:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:10-11; Mark 13:32-37; Matthew 24:23-31,36-44, 25:1-13,31-46)

## **THE RESURRECTION**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to the everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to everlasting conscious punishment; and in the reality of heaven and hell as taught by our Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:19-54; Revelation 20:13; Job 19:26; Psalm. 17:15; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2; Luke 12:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.