

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God and without error in the original writings and that they are the supreme authority in matters of faith and conduct.

(2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Psalm 119:105)

We believe in one God, creator and sustainer of the universe, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, and eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 1:1; Psalm 147:5; Exodus 15:11; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, that He is true God and true Man, and that He died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. We believe in His bodily resurrection from the grave, His ascension into heaven, and His perpetual intercession for His people.

(Luke 1:30-35; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Hebrews 7:25)

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ.

(John 16:7-13; Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14)

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. We believe that all human beings are born with sinful natures and those who reach moral responsibility also become sinners by choice.

(Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:3)

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God. We believe that only such are real believers who endure unto the end; their perseverance is the mark which distinguishes them from superficial believers, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

(John 1:12; Matthew 24:13; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

We believe that the Church is a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a visible Church is a local congregation of baptized believers associated for worship, service, and fellowship and who observe the New Testament ordinances.

(1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12,13; Colossians 1:18)

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances that have been committed to the church for perpetual observance. We believe that baptism should follow regeneration and that it is the immersion in water of the believer in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that baptism is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. In the Lord's Supper, believers, by the use of bread and the cup, commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

(Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3,4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28)

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

(Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8, 9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thes 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

(Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22, 23)

Concerning marriage and divorce, (1) we believe that in cases where divorce has taken place prior to conversion, the experience shall be considered a part of the individual's unregenerate life (This shall not prevent that individual from serving in any official capacity in the church if it does not conflict with 1 Timothy 3:12 or with our Church Constitution, Article VII, Section 1, Deacons, #c.) and (2) in accordance with 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 all marriages in the Church building shall be restricted to those having been born again by the Holy Spirit and having received Jesus as Lord and Savior.

(Matthew 5:32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-12)

We believe in that blessed hope, the rapture of the Church and the personal, imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At His coming we believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and 1,000 years later the bodily resurrection of the unjust, the saved resurrected to everlasting blessedness and the lost resurrected to everlasting conscious punishment.

(John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20,21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6)