

Membership Commitment

Affirmation of the Membership Statements of Faith and Fellowship

Membership Statement of Faith

Section 1. The Tri-une God We believe in one God, eternally existing in three equally divine, unified Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who know, love, and glorify one another. This one true and living God is infinitely perfect both in his love and in his holiness. He is the Creator of all things and is worthy to receive all glory and adoration. He knows, sustains, and rules over all, and providentially brings about his good purposes to redeem a people for himself and restore his fallen creation.

Section 2. Revelation We believe that God has graciously disclosed his existence and power in creation and has supremely revealed himself in the person of his Son, the incarnate Word. Moreover, God has revealed himself in his written Word, the verbally inspired sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments. It is complete in its revelation of his will for salvation, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. The Bible is to be believed, as God's perfect instruction, in all that it teaches; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; and trusted, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.

Section 3. Creation of Humanity We believe God created men and women in his image and for his glory. Equal yet different, Adam and Eve were brought together in a one-flesh marriage union that establishes the only biblical pattern of sexual relations for men and women. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. Both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and develop their full potential in the ministries of the people of God.

Section 4. The Fall We believe that Adam, made in the image of God, distorted that image and forfeited his original purity by falling into sin through Satan's temptation. As a result of sin, all creation is cursed, and all human beings are alienated from God, corrupted, and condemned finally and irrevocably to death. The supreme need of all human beings is to be reconciled to the God under whose just and holy wrath we stand.

Section 5. The Plan of God We believe that from all eternity God determined in grace to save a great multitude of guilty sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation. In love, God commands and implores all people to repent and believe in Jesus, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved. God justifies and sanctifies those who by grace place faith in Jesus and will one day glorify them—all to the praise of his glorious grace.

Section 6. The Gospel We believe that the biblical gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—God's very wisdom and power to those who are being saved. This good news is centered on the historical events of the cross and resurrection. By his life and death, Jesus Christ acted as our representative and substitute. He died for our sins to reconcile us to God, and by his resurrection was vindicated by his Father, defeated Satan, broke the power of death, and brought us everlasting life. When the gospel is received, believed, and held firmly, individuals are saved from eternal condemnation into this everlasting life.

Section 7. The Redemption of Christ We believe that the eternal Son became flesh: fully God and fully human being, one Person in two natures. The man Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, was conceived through the miraculous agency of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He perfectly obeyed his heavenly Father, lived a sinless life, proclaimed the kingdom of God, performed miraculous signs, was crucified to satisfy God's just wrath, arose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven. As the mediatorial King, he is seated at the right hand of God the Father, exercising in heaven and on earth all of God's sovereignty, and is our High Priest, righteous Advocate, and Savior.

Section 8. The Justification of Sinners We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of sin. By his sacrifice, he bore in our stead the punishment due us for our sins, making full satisfaction to God's justice on our behalf. By his perfect obedience he satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf, since by grace through faith alone that perfect obedience is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God.

Section 9. The Power of the Holy Spirit We believe that the Holy Spirit applies this salvation to his people. Sent by the Father and the Son, the other Helper is present with and in believers. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and by his powerful and mysterious work regenerates spiritually dead sinners, awakening them to repentance and faith. In him they are baptized into union with the Lord Jesus, such that they are justified before God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. By the Spirit's agency, believers are renewed, sanctified, gifted, adopted into God's family, and participate in the divine nature.

Section 10. The Kingdom of God We believe that those who have been saved by God and regenerated by the Holy Spirit enter the kingdom of God and delight in the blessings of the new covenant: the forgiveness of sins; the inward transformation that awakens a desire to glorify, trust, and obey God; and the promise of the glory yet to be revealed. Good works constitute indispensable evidence of saving grace; therefore, as citizens of God's kingdom, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God. The kingdom of God, already present but not fully realized, is the exercise of God's sovereignty in the world toward the eventual redemption of all creation; it inevitably establishes a new community of human life together under God.

Section 11. God's New People We believe that God's new covenant people are already seated with Christ in the heavenlies. This universal Church is manifest in local churches of which Christ is the only Head; thus each local church is, in fact, the church, the family of God, the bride of Christ, the assembly of the living God, the body of Christ, and the pillar and foundation of the truth. The church is distinguished by her gospel message, her sacred ordinances, her discipline, her great mission, and, above all, by her love for God, and by her members' love for one another and the world. These distinguishing qualities are fostered in the congregational church through a humble, biblically qualified male eldership and a passionate, servant-oriented male and female diaconate.

Section 12. Baptism and the Lord's Supper We believe that Christian baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible and communal actions which serve as signs of the immense goodness of God toward his people in that they place before our eyes the invisible actions God accomplished in salvation. Baptism is a one-time, symbolic act of obedience for every individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become his disciple. The Lord's Supper is a regular, symbolic act of obedience for all genuine followers of Christ. It symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of his blood on our behalf



and is to be observed repeatedly together throughout the Christian life as both a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death and demonstration of our unity with other members of Christ's body.

Section 13. The Mission of the Church We believe God's people should increasingly be marked by Christlikeness, prayerfulness, joyful obedience, love for God, and love for neighbor, as members seek the fulfillment of the church's mission. The mission of the church, graciously given by God, is to make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father and by teaching believers to obey all God commands. As salt and light, disciples eagerly and faithfully sacrifice to seek and save the lost, love others in word and deed, work for righteousness and justice, and care for all in need.

Section 14. The Restoration of All Things We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with his holy angels, when he will exercise his role as final Judge, and his kingdom will be consummated. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust—the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord himself taught, and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness. On that day the Church will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering, and triumph of Christ, with all sin and its wretched effects forever banished.

Membership Statement of Fellowship

As those who have been brought to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ by the grace of God, we are now Christians, saved from the just penalty and enslaving power of sin. Being new creations in union with Christ, we will, with God's help, live as God's people. Therefore, we now, by God's grace and for God's glory, joyfully commit as one body in Christ.

We will walk together in Christian love with humility, gentleness, and patience, laboring for the maturity and fruitfulness of this body (John 17:20-23; Eph. 4:3-13).

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor to bear each other's burdens and sorrows, always remembering to pray for one another (Rom. 12:15; James 5:16).

We will be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1-3).

We will exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other, and if occasion requires, we will humbly plead with one another to cease in sinful behavior and encourage the confession of sin to one another (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Gal. 6:1-5; 1 John 1:6-10).

We will regularly gather together in corporate worship, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves (Acts 2:46; Heb. 10:24-25).

We will pursue and encourage in each other a deeper understanding of God and his will through personal spiritual disciplines, relying upon God's power to enable us to live out what we learn so that God is glorified, others are blessed, and we are transformed (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Tim. 4:7-10).

We will strive to properly manage the resources God has given us, including our time, bodies, spiritual gifts, talents, finances, and possessions (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 12:7-31; 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18).

We will aim to bring up all who are in our care and through example, word, and deed seek the salvation of our friends, family, community, and all the nations (Deut. 6:4-25; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:9; Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 4:5).

We will seek, by God's power, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and pursuing holiness, remembering as new creations in Christ we have a special obligation to live holy lives (Rom. 13:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:16-26).

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful gospel ministry in this church, as we sustain its corporate worship, ordinances, mission, doctrine, and, under the final authority of God's Word, its governing documents.

We will, if we move from this church, as soon as possible, unite with some other Christian church among whom we can carry out the spirit of this statement and the principles of God's Word.

These commitments do not imply that we will never fall short. Nevertheless, the desire of our hearts is to fulfill each of these responsibilities in the power of the Holy Spirit. Honesty, humility, and the pursuit of holiness are ordinary for the people of God, but sinlessness will not be a daily reality until we are all in the presence of Jesus Christ. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all (2 Cor. 13:14).

With God's help, I affirm the Bible's teachings as expressed in the Membership Statement of Faith and affirm my commitment to biblical behavior as expressed in the Membership Statement of Fellowship.

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____