

## ARTICLE II ARTICLES OF FAITH

### 0.0.1 ***The Bible***

We believe the Bible is the authentic Word of God, His written revelation to man.<sup>1</sup> We believe the Bible is eternal, unchanging, <sup>2</sup> verbally inspired, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts,<sup>3</sup> and reliably preserved throughout all generations.<sup>2</sup> We believe the Bible is the supreme authority in the life of the believer and in the function of the church.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 29:29    <sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:18, 24:35    <sup>3</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16-17;  
<sup>2</sup> Peter 1:20-21    <sup>4</sup> Matthew 4:4

### 0.0.2 ***The Godhead***

We believe in one True God:<sup>1</sup> Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;<sup>2</sup> eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, having precisely the same attributes and perfections.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6    <sup>2</sup> Matthew 28:19;  
<sup>2</sup> Corinthians 13:14    <sup>3</sup> Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 1:1-13

### 0.0.3 ***Man's Creation and Fall***

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God,<sup>1</sup> but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sin nature and consequent alienation from God, and came under judicial sentence of death.<sup>2</sup>

God immutably bestows upon each person male or female gender, genetically determined at conception.

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:26-27    <sup>2</sup> Romans 5:12; 3:23; 6:23

### 0.0.4 ***The Person and Work of Christ***

We believe that our LORD Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God;<sup>1</sup> that without ceasing to be God He became a man,<sup>2</sup> having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.<sup>3</sup> We believe the Son of God came to glorify the Father<sup>4</sup> by revealing God,<sup>5</sup> destroying the works of the devil,<sup>6</sup> and redeeming sinful people by His substitutionary, atoning death through His blood shed on the cross.<sup>7</sup> We believe in the physical resurrection of our LORD'S crucified body;<sup>8</sup> His bodily ascension into heaven;<sup>9</sup> His exaltation to the right hand of the Father<sup>10</sup> where, as High Priest of His people,<sup>11</sup> He fulfills the ministry of Representative,<sup>12</sup> Intercessor,<sup>13</sup> and Advocate.<sup>14</sup> We believe in the imminent,<sup>15</sup> bodily<sup>16</sup> coming of the LORD Jesus Christ for the Church<sup>17</sup> and His subsequent premillennial return to establish His Kingdom on earth.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 1:1, 14    <sup>2</sup> Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9    <sup>3</sup> Luke 1:34-35  
<sup>4</sup> John 17:1-4    <sup>5</sup> John 1:14-18; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3    <sup>6</sup> 1 John 3:8  
<sup>7</sup> Romans 3:24-25; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:19-20    <sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:3-4;  
Luke 24:36-43    <sup>9</sup> Acts 1:9-11    <sup>10</sup> Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:9-11  
<sup>11</sup> Hebrews 4:14-16    <sup>12</sup> Hebrews 9:24    <sup>13</sup> Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34  
<sup>14</sup> 1 John 2:1    <sup>15</sup> Matthew 24:37-44  
<sup>16</sup> Acts 1:11    <sup>17</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11    <sup>18</sup> Revelation 20:4-6;  
Zechariah 14:4-11

### 0.0.5 ***The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit***

We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit;<sup>1</sup> that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment;<sup>2</sup> that He regenerates the individual,<sup>3</sup> and

indwells,<sup>4</sup> enlightens,<sup>5</sup> and guides the believer;<sup>6</sup> that He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ,<sup>7</sup> and seals every believer for the day of redemption.<sup>8</sup> We believe that the Holy Spirit strengthens us with power, testifying of the LORD Jesus Christ, so that we might know the love of Christ and the fullness of God.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 14:16-17   <sup>2</sup> John 16:7-11   <sup>3</sup> Titus 3:5   <sup>4</sup> Romans 8:9

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 1:15-18   <sup>6</sup> John 16:13   <sup>7</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 4:30   <sup>9</sup> Ephesians 3:14-19

#### 0.0.6 **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is entirely the gracious work of God<sup>1</sup> wherein the Holy Spirit, by means of the gospel message,<sup>2</sup> moves upon the sinner with regenerating power,<sup>3</sup> bringing forth repentance from sin<sup>4</sup> and faith in the LORD Jesus Christ<sup>5</sup> as the only hope of eternal life.<sup>6</sup>

We believe that every person who believes in the LORD Jesus Christ for salvation is justified before God only on the merits of the perfect life and propitiatory sacrifice of Christ.<sup>7</sup> We believe that those God justifies will experience an ongoing work of sanctification,<sup>8</sup> and that believers should joyfully persevere in this process.<sup>9</sup> We believe that saving faith manifests itself in works pleasing to God.<sup>10</sup> We further believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ forever.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 2:8-9   <sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23   <sup>3</sup> Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Luke 24:46-47   <sup>5</sup> Acts 20:21   <sup>6</sup> 1 John 5:11-12   <sup>7</sup> Romans 3:21-26

<sup>8</sup> 2 Timothy 2:19-22   <sup>9</sup> 2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 2:12-13

<sup>10</sup> Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:14-26   <sup>11</sup> John 10:27-30; Romans 8:28-39

#### 0.0.7 **The Church**

We believe that the universal Church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ,<sup>1</sup> is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons, irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27   <sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

We believe that this universal Church is manifested in various places in the form of local churches.<sup>1</sup> We believe that a local church is an organized body<sup>2</sup> of believers in the LORD Jesus Christ who meet together regularly<sup>3</sup> for worship,<sup>4</sup> instruction in God's Word,<sup>5</sup> mutual edification,<sup>6</sup> observance of the ordinances,<sup>7</sup> and the exercise of discipline.<sup>8</sup> When not purposefully gathered, the members are strategically placed by God in the community and the world to carry out the great commission until the LORD returns.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 14:23; Galatians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1   <sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:18;

1 Timothy 3:1-15   <sup>3</sup> Hebrews 10:2   <sup>4</sup> Acts 2:46-47   <sup>5</sup> Acts 2:42

<sup>6</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:11   <sup>7</sup> Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 18:15-20; Hebrews 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5

<sup>9</sup> Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

#### 0.0.8 **The Personality of Satan**

We believe the person of Satan was originally created a blameless and perfect being but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God,<sup>1</sup> thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people,<sup>2</sup> leader of all other evil angels and wicked spirits,<sup>3</sup> the deceiver and god of this present world.<sup>4</sup>

His powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God. Who overrules all his wicked devices for good,<sup>5</sup> that he was defeated by our LORD Jesus Christ and judged at the cross,<sup>6</sup> and therefore his eternal doom in the lake of fire is certain.<sup>7</sup> Believers in the LORD Jesus Christ, clothed in the full armor of God,<sup>8</sup> are able to resist<sup>9</sup> and overcome him by the blood of the Lamb,<sup>10</sup> and the power of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19    <sup>2</sup> Job 1 & 2; 1 Peter 5:8

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 12:7-9    <sup>4</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>5</sup> Job 42:10-17    <sup>6</sup> John 12:31-33; Colossians 2:13-15

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10    <sup>8</sup> Ephesians 6:10-17

<sup>9</sup> James 4:7    <sup>10</sup> Revelation 12:11

#### 0.0.9 **The Eternal State**

We believe that upon physical death the soul of one who has trusted in the LORD Jesus Christ for salvation passes immediately into His presence,<sup>1</sup> and there remains in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory.<sup>2</sup>

We believe that upon physical death the soul of an unbeliever remains in conscious suffering<sup>3</sup> until the final judgment, when soul and body reunited in physical resurrection shall be punished forever in the lake of fire,<sup>4</sup> away from the presence of the LORD and from the glory of His power.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:6-8    <sup>2</sup> Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>3</sup> Luke 16:19-26    <sup>4</sup> Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:11-15

<sup>5</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:9

#### 0.0.10 **Conclusion**

We not only believe that this body of doctrine is a sacred trust to be preserved and taught in its purity, but we also believe it is a life to be lived and a gospel to be preached.