

## 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 mankind was created in the image and likeness of God, who bestows upon each person, male or female gender, which is genetically determined before conception. In Adam's sin, humans fell from their standing in relationship with God, inherited a sin nature and consequent alienation from God, and came under judicial sentence of death."

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 1:26-27    <sup>2</sup>Psalm 139:13    <sup>3</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; 1Peter 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.