

STATEMENT OF FAITH

This is what we **believe** as a faith community. It's important to understand our theological foundation theologically is **Historical Christian Orthodox**. Unity in essentials. Liberty in non-essentials. In all things, charity.

THE BIBLE

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative, eternal Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible, and inerrant (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 119:89, 160; Romans 16:25-26).

THE TRIUNE GOD

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and coeternal (1 John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. 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, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind, 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 (John 1:1, 14, 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. He is a distinct person from the Father and the Son, God of God, sent by the Father to equip the Body of Christ with grace for work. In all he does, he glorifies Christ. He works in the world to make all people understand their need for Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of sin, regenerates sinners, and in him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted into the family of God. The Holy Spirit is received at salvation, and assists us in our weaknesses by enabling us to live victorious, bold, Christ-like lives (Jn. 14:16-26; Rom. 8:9, 26; Eph. 4:30; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; Heb. 10:29).

SIN & FALL OF HUMANITY

We believe that humankind was created in the image of God but voluntarily sinned when tempted by Satan and fell short of God's righteousness. Sin is willful transgression of the law of God and deserves death. At the fall, humankind incurred physical death and spiritual death, which is separation from God. All human beings are in union with Adam

and are sinners by nature and by choice. Sin has alienated humankind from God and subjected it to his wrath (Ge. 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).

SALVATION AND THE WORK OF CHRIST

Fallen humankind's hope of redemption is only possible through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and his work on the cross. Because of our sinful nature, the Bible teaches that man cannot enter into heaven no matter how good of a life he may have lived. Jesus Christ came to earth to take the punishment for the sin of all mankind. Our only hope for salvation is faith in the truth that Jesus died for our sin and that he made a way for us to gain the righteousness it takes to enter heaven. The redemption offered to humankind through the work of Christ must be received by repentance toward God and faith in Christ who shed his blood. Those who receive God's offer of grace by faith are born again, justified, regenerated, adopted into the family of God, made heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, and are partakers of eternal life to come (Genesis 3 Romans 3:10-23 Romans 6:23 Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:3; Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 5:10; 8:14-17; 10:9-10; Titus 3:5-6).

THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is the Body of Jesus Christ, who is its Head. The Church is comprised of all those who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. The Church is manifest in local churches, who's membership should be only believers. The Church is being built up and made into the Bride of Christ, fully matured and presentable at Jesus's Second Coming. We believe the Church is a pillar of truth to the world because of the abiding story and presence of Jesus as mediated by the Holy Spirit (Mt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 5:1, 5; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11-17; 5:27; Rev. 2-3).

SACRAMENTS

- **Water Baptism:** Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48
- **The Lord's Supper:** A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25

CHRIST'S RETURN & ETERNAL PERFECT STATE

We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. At the moment of his coming, which time is unknown, we will be caught up in the air, transformed in glory, and brought back to the to the earth whereupon Christ will sit in judgment, separate the wheat from the chaff, renew the earth, and reign as King forever. We believe that God is creating a New Heavens and a New Earth where humans will dwell forever with God. The imminent coming of Christ should inspire godly living and

commitment to the mission of the Gospel (Isa. 65:17; Mt. 24:30; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:50-54; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 19:11-22:21).

ETERNAL CONSCIOUS PUNISHMENT

We believe that those who reject God's offer of grace and forgiveness and are not found in the book of Life will be raised and judged in the resurrection of the wicked and given over to eternal conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire along with the devil and his angels for all eternity (Mt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the continuation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and that the charismata did not cease after the Apostolic age. The purpose of the gifts is to equip the Church to carry out its mission until Christ returns, as well as to be a foretaste of the life to come. Believers should seek God in prayer for the gifts of the Spirit to operate in their own lives and ministries and should not only agree to them theoretically but practice them outwardly as the Spirit leads (Rom. 1:11; 1 Cor. 1:5, 7; 12:1, 31; 1 Cor. 14:12; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; Heb. 6:5).

MARRIAGE

We believe God has ordained marriage and defined it as a covenant relationship between one man, one woman, and himself. Hence, we only recognize marriage between a biological man and a biological woman. As a result, the bold pastoral staff will only participate in weddings and the solemnization of marriages between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4; Eph. 5:25; 1 Pet. 3:7).

GENDER

We believe that from the beginning God created two separate and distinct biological sexes: male and female. Moreover, we believe that Scripture does not permit any difference between biological sex and gender identity or expression. Humankind has been created by God and any attempt to misconstrue the difference between male/female and/or biological sex/gender identity is an attempt to self-create and is a result of sin and the fall. We also acknowledge that there are rare instances where people are born with an indiscriminate biological sex. Yet, these cases do not involve an attempt to self-create nor deny the dignity of how they were born (Gen. 1:26-27; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6-7; Psalm 139:14).

RACE

We believe that God loves all races of human beings equally and without preference or favoritism. Racism, which is prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, is evil and is the result of sin. We believe that the authority for approaching racism is Scripture and, therefore, our approach to racism centers around such. As a result, we reject Critical Race Theory (CRT) and other systems

of thinking that insist on being the authority on racism and the resolution to it. (Mk 12:31; Acts 17:26; Rom. 2:11; Rev. 7:9-10; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

RIGHT TO LIFE

We believe that all human life is valuable and sacred, and that human life and full personhood begins at conception and continues until death. As stewards of life, we are endowed by God with the responsibility to protect the worth and dignity of human beings from the moment of conception until the moment of death. Therefore, we oppose taking innocent life in all forms, including abortion and euthanasia. (Gen. 1:26-27; Job 31:15; Ps. 22:10; Ps. 127:3-5; Ps. 139:13-16; Jer. 1:5; Acts 17:25).

MALE AND FEMALE LEADERSHIP

We are fully convinced that gender does not determine the ministry capacity people can receive from God. Therefore, we rejoice when women as well as men move forward to lay hold of their full inheritance in Christ. Scripture clearly emphasized the roles of preaching the gospel, proclaiming healing, Holy Spirit empowerment, and the imminent return of Christ in both men and women. While honoring and encouraging men and women serving in support areas, scripture made it clear that women should enjoy absolute equality with men in terms of preaching, serving in church leadership, and fulfilling the Great Commission. (Mic. 6:4, Judg. 4:4-5; 5:31, 2 Kings 22:14-20, Est. 4:13-17, Joel 2:28-29; Acts: 2:17-18, Acts 1:14: 2:4)

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the incoming of the promised Comforter in mighty and glorious fullness to endue the believer with power from on high; to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus; to give inspired utterance in witnessing of Him; to foster the spirit of prayer, holiness, sobriety; to equip the individual and the Church for practical, efficient, joyous, Spirit-filled soul-winning in the fields of life; and that this being still the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, the believer may have every reason to expect His incoming to be after the same manner as that in which He came upon Jew and Gentile alike in Bible days, and as recorded in the Word, that it may be truly said of us as of the house of Cornelius: the Holy Ghost fell on them as on us at the beginning. (Act 1:8, Jn.14:16,17)