

# **Statement of Faith**

Adopted by the Board as By-law 2 on February 24, 2023

### The Bible

We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice, inerrant and infallible; totally trustworthy. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

#### God

There is one true God; the almighty Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal; existing in three equal Persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – each of whom is an uncreated person, and who are one in essence, equal in power and glory. (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 45:21; Matt. 28:19)

# **Jesus Christ**

Our Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. We believe in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory, in His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension to the right hand of the Father, mediatorial ministry and personal return in power and glory to judge the living and dead. (John 1:14, 29; Luke 1:26-35; Col. 1:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:1-4, 12-25; Mail. 24:35)

# The Holy Spirit

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit who convinces of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ. He enlightens, guides, equips and empowers followers of Christ, enabling them to live holy lives, marked by a zeal for good works and witness about the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit has and does give spiritual gifts to believers for the glory of God's name and maturing of His Church. (John 14: 16–17, 25-26, John 16:7-15; Mail. 28:19; 1 John 5:7, Eph. 4:11-16, 1Cor. 13:10-13, Titus 2:14)

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### Satan

We believe that Satan exists as an evil personality, the originator of sin and the archenemy of God and man. (John 8:44)

#### Mankind

We believe that humankind was divinely created in the image of God; that the first man (Adam) and first woman (Eve) sinned, becoming guilty before God, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death. (Gen. 1:27, 31; 3:1-6; Isa. 53:6, Eph. 2:1-3)

## **Salvation**

We believe that the salvation of lost and sinful humanity (having inherited a sin nature through Adam) is possible only through the shed blood of our sinless Lord Jesus Christ. Salva? on is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered a vicarious, propitiatory death; that justification is by faith alone in the all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, not by works. Those whom God has effectually called shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord, made possible by the regeneration and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:2; Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:5)

# The Church

We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ who is the head of the Church (universal) and in the responsibility of its members to be committed to a body of believers for the purpose of encouraging one another toward maturity in Christ and love and good deeds toward others. (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:12-13; Eph. 5:23; Col. 2:19; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5;).

### The Return of Jesus Christ

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious future return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the lost and wicked.

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Those who are saved through faith will joyfully experience the resurrection and eternal fellowship with God. (John 14:3; 5:25-29; Ma2. 18:8; 2 Cor. 5:10)

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