



## **Below is the Statement of Faith as Found in the Constitution of Fellowship Chapel**

“16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

**-II Timothy 3:16-17**

### **The Bible**

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the canon of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments:

- (1) is the written revelation of God to mankind
- (2) is verbally (i.e. the words of Scripture in the original languages) and fully inspired by God (lit. God-breathed)
- (3) is infallible and inerrant in the original manuscripts
- (4) is sufficient as the repository of knowledge of God and of His Will that is necessary for the eternal welfare of mankind
- (5) is the supreme and final authority for all Christian thought, faith and conduct.

**Deuteronomy 29:29; Luke 24:44; John 10:35; II Timothy 3:15-16; II Peter 1:21; 3:16**

### **God**

We believe that there is one God, whose essential nature is that of living, personal Spirit. He is infinitely perfect in all His attributes. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three persons (Triunity)---Father, Son and Holy Spirit--- equally deserving of worship and obedience. He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.

**Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; John 5:26; I Corinthians 8:4; II Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 1:16-17**

## **The Father**

We believe that God the Father, the first person of the Triune God of the Bible, orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace. He is the only absolute and omnipotent ruler in the universe. His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Triunity and His relationship with mankind. He is Father to all men because He is their Creator, but He is spiritual Father only to those born-again by His Spirit.

He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass. He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events. In His sovereignty, He is neither author nor approver of sin, nor does He abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures. He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own children spiritually. He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. He adopts as His own all those who come to Him; and becomes Father to His own.

**Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 103:19; Psalm 145:8-9; I Chronicles 29:11; Habakkuk 1:13; John 1:12; John 8:38-47; Romans 8:14,15; Romans 11:36; I Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:4-6,11; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 12:5-9; I Peter 1:17**

## **Jesus Christ (God the Son)**

We believe that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man, the second person of the Triune God of the Bible. He preexisted eternally with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit at His incarnation and born of the virgin Mary as the promised Messiah of Israel, and the rightful Heir to King David. He lived a perfect life and died a substitutionary death as a propitiation for the sins of mankind. We believe that He arose bodily from the grave, and that He ascended to heaven and is seated at the righthand of God the Father. He presently operates as High Priest and Advocate for His people, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

We believe that He will return personally and bodily to the earth at the close of this age to establish His kingdom rule from Jerusalem. He is the world's only Savior and is Lord of all.

**Isaiah 7:14-15, 9:6-7, Psalm 110, Matthew 1:11-25, 22:41-46; John 1:1; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:25, 8:34; I Corinthians 15:3,20; Philippians 2:5-11; I Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 1:13; 2:17, 4:14-16; I Peter 2:22; 3:22; I John 2:1, 4:9-10; Revelation 3:21**

## **The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God, the third person of the Triune God of the Bible. We believe that He was sent from God the Father and God the Son to bear witness about the Christ, to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, to regenerate and indwell those who trust in Christ, and to baptize them into the Body of Christ. He seals believers for the final day of redemption, guides and teaches them in the truth of the Scriptures, fills them for a life of holiness and victory, and empowers them for confessing and turning from sin, for witness, for service, and for good works. We believe that He gives spiritual gifts to believers for the proper functioning within the Body of Christ, which is the Church.

**John 3:5-8; 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 12:1-6; I Corinthians 2:9-12; I Corinthians 3:16; I Corinthians 12:3-13, 28-31; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14**

## **Man**

We believe that all men are the descendants of Adam, the first man who was originally created by a definite act of God in His own image. Man is, therefore, dependent upon, and accountable to his Creator. Through disobedience, the first man sinned and fell from his original state of moral perfection. Consequently, Adam brought upon himself and upon the whole human race the penalty for sin, which is spiritual and physical death. Since Adam, every person is born with an inherently sinful nature and becomes a sinner in thought, word and deed. Every person, therefore, stands under the just condemnation of God and is unable to save himself or to present independent deeds worthy of merit unto a holy God .

**Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7; Matthew 5:20-48; John 3:36; Romans 2:6-16; Romans 5:12-21; Romans 6:23**

## Salvation

We believe that a person is saved from the eternal condemnation of God's absolute justice as a free gift of God, solely by God's sovereign grace, apart from any human works. This salvation is made possible through the shed blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, whereby He died a substitutionary death on the cross for mankind as a propitiation of God's justice for man's sin, was buried, and was resurrected on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Salvation becomes effective when a person, by God's grace, through faith alone, receives the God-Man Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, believing that He provided a substitutionary atonement in His death on the cross, and that God raised Him from the dead. The benefits of this salvation include the forgiveness of sins, a righteous standing before God, the impartation of Christ's life, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the guarantee of physical bodily resurrection of the dead in Christ (and a catching-up of those currently living at that time) and eternal life, and all the privileges that accompany a new family relationship with God. The assurance and security of eternal salvation is the birthright and everlasting possession of every believer in Christ.

**Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 1:12-29; John 3:16; Acts 3:19; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:21-28;10:9; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:6; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Hebrews 2:17; I John 4:9-10**

## Sanctification

We believe that it is God's desire to manifest Himself to the world through the life of every believer. As a believer presents his body as a living sacrifice to God, he is conformed to the image of Christ, God the Son, and transformed by the renewing of his mind. This is what the Scriptures describe as spiritual worship for believers. As the believer abides in and obeys the teachings of God the Son and walks in the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit are manifested in and through the believer, and the believer is guided in this to better discern the will of the Lord, both in the Scriptures and for their own lives. The believer's fellowship with God the Father and the His Son, Jesus Christ, is emboldened and supported in their walking in worship and obedience to God.

A believer who resists the working of the Holy Spirit will be disciplined in love by his Heavenly Father.

**John 15:5;17:21,23; Romans 8:29, 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16,22; Hebrews 12:5-14; I John 1:3**

## **The Church**

We believe that the Church (i.e. Assembly) of Jesus Christ is the universal company of God's redeemed people of the current age. It is the spiritual family and adopted sons of God as the Father. The Church is the Body of Christ, Christ being the Head of His Body. The Church is a Temple through which God dwells through the indwelling of Holy Spirit within believers. The universal Body of Christ is visibly expressed in local assemblies whose focus is worshiping and obeying the God of the Bible.

The local church assembly is to glorify God through the observance of spiritual disciplines described and instructed in God's Word (i.e. the Scriptures) to include fellowship with one another, observing the ordinances that Christ established for the Church, breaking of bread and eating together, and prayer, encouraging and upholding sound biblical teaching, spiritual maturity, church discipline, edification of the saints, evangelism to non-believers, and exalting the name of the Lord.

The redeemed are called the "Bride of Christ" and "Wife of the Lamb" in the Scriptures, and these members of His Church are destined to an eternity of worshiping God. Both Jew and Gentile of the current age, who believe in Jesus as God's promised Messiah (i.e. Christ), are brought into reconciliation and fellowship with God under the New Covenant and are believing remnant-members of the Body of Christ (the Church), comprising the believing remnant of Jacob (i.e. believing Israel or "Israel of God") and the remnant of Adam (i.e. believing Gentiles from the nations).

**Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 31:23-40; Matthew 16:13-20; 18:15-20; 28:19-20; Acts 1:4-11; 2:42-47; 15:12-20; Romans 9-11; I Corinthians 3:16; 5:1-7; Galatians 3:6-4:7; 6:16; Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:21-22; 3:10; 5:15-27; Hebrews 8; 10:25; I Peter 2:9; I John 4:17; Revelation 19:7; 21:2-9; 22:17**

## **Israel**

We believe that God made everlasting and irrevocable covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their physical descendants (comprising the Jewish people worldwide as national Israel). These include the unconditional election of Israel as God's chosen nation, the gift of the land of Israel (in perpetuity) to the Jewish people, and the promise of God's Messiah (Israel's rightful King and Heir of David).

Through the atoning work of the Messiah (Christ) all the families of the earth are blessed, as God made atonement for sin through the offering of Christ on the cross. Jesus shall return to Jerusalem to rule for a thousand years when He establishes His kingdom on earth, comprising a national salvation and restoration of Israel as the head of the nations, and the healing of the Land of promise.

**Genesis 12:1-3; 15:9-21; 17:1-8; Deuteronomy 32:8-12; 2 Samuel 7:6-16; I Chron. 17; Isaiah 9:6-7; 49:5-6; 52:14-53:12;; Ezekiel 40-48; Zechariah 9-14; Psalm 137:5-6; Romans 9-11; Revelation 22:16**

## **The Future Life**

We believe in the resurrection of the body for both believers and unbelievers, believers to everlasting life and unbelievers to everlasting condemnation.

We believe that the believer goes to be with Christ in conscious blessedness immediately after death, having escaped the condemnation for his sins through the atoning death of Christ. All believers will experience physical resurrection from the dead at an appointed time (or will be caught-up to the Lord if living) and will stand before God to receive rewards for their good works. They will be brought unto a glorified state and are destined to be with the Lord, both during His millennial rule on earth, and in the eternity thereafter.

We believe in the imminent, pre-millennial return of Christ to Jerusalem with His glorified Church to judge and rule the earth in righteousness.

At the end of the millennial rule of Jesus, the unbeliever will face God as the eternal and holy Judge who will sentence him for his sin. The unbeliever will experience the conscious, physical punishment in the lake of fire prepared for Satan and his angels and endure eternal separation from the presence of God.

**Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:41; John 14:3; Romans 8:1; I Corinthians 3:11-15; I Corinthians 15:20; II Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 2:10; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 11:15; 20:11; 21-22**

## **Satan**

We believe in the personality and continually depraved character of the fallen angel, Satan (also known as the Devil), who is the chief enemy of God and man. We believe that he,

along with the company of angelic beings serving him, works out his evil plans through ungodly world systems, though limited in their power by the sovereign rule of God, and declared by God to be doomed in their eventual destiny.

We believe that his power, through being an accuser against men of the sin-indebtedness owed to God, was broken by the atoning work of Christ at the cross.

Satan will be bound and imprisoned during the millennial reign of Christ from Jerusalem, and then ultimately experience eternal punishment, along with his angels, in the lake of fire prepared by God for their judgment.

**Genesis 3:14-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Job 1-2; Matthew 4:3-11; 25:41; John 8:44; II Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 2:14-15; Revelation 12:9-10; Revelation 20:10**