

# STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

## **In essential beliefs – we have unity.**

For there is one Body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all. Ephesians 4:4-6 NLT

## **In non-essential beliefs – we have flexibility.**

Accept him whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters... Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. Romans 14:1, 12-13 NIV

## **In all our beliefs – we show love.**

If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2 NIV

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

There is one God, eternally existing in three persons (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) each possessing all the attributes of deity. God created mankind to have fellowship with Him. However, because of man's disobedience, sin entered the world and separated us from God. To end our isolation, the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live a sinless life here on earth. Jesus voluntarily died on the cross; offering Himself as a worthy substitute for the consequences of our sin.

This exchange brought forgiveness and restoration to mankind and allows those who accept His gift to live forever in fellowship with Him. Through the power of God, Jesus conquered death and returned to life; accomplishing salvation for all who believe in Him. Salvation comes through God's grace, not our own works, and is received personally by turning from our sin and trusting in Him.

Through his resurrection, Jesus became the only Mediator between God and man. With that relationship restored, believers have been equipped with the Holy Spirit living inside of them. The Holy Spirit drives the transformation that continually helps believers to be more like Christ and gives them power to conquer sin.

It is the Holy Spirit, displayed in and through the people of God, that attracts non-believers to Christ. It is every believer's responsibility to represent God and share this message of forgiveness and restoration through Christ. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following:

**The Bible is our authority.**

The sole basis for our belief is the Bible. It is uniquely God-inspired, without error, and the final authority on all matters on which it speaks.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in righteousness.  
—2 Timothy 3:16 NIV*

**Christ is the head of the Church.**

*...Christ is the head of the Church, his body, of which he is the Savior. —Ephesians 5:23 NIV*

**Every believer has potential.**

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. —Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. —1 Peter 2:9 NIV*

**Believers can be both spirit-filled and spirit-led.**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. —Acts 1:8 NLT*

*Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. —1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 NLT*

**We have the privilege and responsibility to share the good news with other people.**

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. —1 Peter 3:15 NIV*