

WE BELIEVE The Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct. We believe that scripture, in its entirety, originated with God, and that it was given through the instrumentality of chosen men. Scripture thus at one and the same time speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament, is unique and that there are no other writings similarly inspired by God. (Matthew 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21 and Hebrews 4:12)

WE BELIEVE In one God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit each of whom possess equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1,3; 4:24; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 4:5-6; and 2 Corinthians 13:14)

WE BELIEVE That Jesus Christ was born of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, and is fully God and fully man. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Romans 9:5; and Titus 2:13)

WE BELIEVE That God created human beings in His image to have fellowship with Him. We, however, sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God. All human beings are born with an innate bent toward sin, and become guilty sinners in thought, word and deed. (Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-24; Romans 3:25; 5:12-18; and 1 John 1:8)

WE BELIEVE That God loves people so much that he took the initiative to reconcile people to himself by sending His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus voluntarily paid for our sins according to the scriptures by dying on the cross as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; he rose victorious from the grave on the third day; and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He is the only mediator between people and God. (Isaiah 53; Matthew 20:28; 28:6; John 3:16; Romans 3:24-26; 5:1; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3,14; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 2:2; and Hebrews 7:25)

WE BELIEVE In the necessity of the new birth for entrance into God's Kingdom. All who come by grace through faith to accept the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. The salvation of humankind is wholly a work of God's free grace and not the result of human works or goodness and must be personally appropriated by individual repentance and faith. (John 1:12-13; 3:3,5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; and Galatians 2:16)

WE BELIEVE In the ministry and power of the Holy Spirit to work in and through individuals to bring conviction, repentance and conversion and then to sustain God's people as they live and share this life of faith. (John 3:5-8; 16:8-11,13; Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 12:11,13; Ephesians 4:3; Acts 2; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 5:16-25; and 1 Peter 1:10-12) The Holy Spirit supplies all the enabling gifts for the Church and the individual in the Church to exalt Christ in his body (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; and Ephesians 4:1-16)

WE BELIEVE In the importance of continuing growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ for sound spiritual health. (Psalm 92:12,14; John 8:31-32; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:14-15; Philippians 1:6; and Hebrews 5:11-6:3)

WE BELIEVE In the observance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as sacraments of the church, expressly commanded by our Lord. They are visible signs of the invisible grace of Jesus Christ. Since the Covenant Church is open to all believers, it recognizes both infant and adult baptism as valid forms of that sacrament and includes the practice of both in its ministry. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 10:14-15; Acts 2:28-41,47; 8:36-40; 10:47; 18:8; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; and Titus 3:5-6) Those who partake of the Lord's Supper should be professed believers, walking in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:42-46; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

WE BELIEVE There is one church universal, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord from the days of the apostles until now. The local church is a fellowship of

believers characterized by mutual participation in and sharing of the new life in Christ. We seek to devote ourselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of baptism, and the Lord's Supper, fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts and outreach to the world. All Christians are commanded to participate in spreading the Gospel to all people groups. (Matthew 28:19-20; Genesis 12:3-5; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:15-16) Church membership is by confession of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is open to all believers. Considerations of class or race, education, or pedigree, wealth or prestige do not enter. Uniformity in creedal details is not expected. What is required is that one be "born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3). "The doors of the church are wide enough to admit all who believe and narrow enough to exclude those who do not," said our forebears. We affirm no less today.

WE BELIEVE That God is the Creator of all life. (Genesis 1:27) Human life is a precious gift from God, sacred and to be protected from the moment of conception. (Psalm 139:13-16; 51:5; Jeremiah 1:5; Isaiah 44:2,24; Luke 1:41; 2:12) We also believe the Church is called to promote the stewardship of life and be actively compassionate in sharing the forgiveness and healing offered in Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:12; Matthew 5:7) (A more detailed statement on "Abortion" is available.)

WE BELIEVE In the equal partnership of men and women in God's creation and in the full participation of each in the various ministries of the Church. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:23-24; 5:1,2; Joel 2:28-32; Galatians 3:28; Romans 16:1-16) (A more detailed statement on "Women in Ministry" is available.)

WE BELIEVE That other religions and ideologies" are not alternative paths to God, and that human spirituality, if unredeemed by Christ, leads not to God but to judgment, for Christ is the only way. (John 14:6)

WE BELIEVE That our hope is in the personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ where Christians will be raised bodily to life, to live and reign with Him forever. The unjust will suffer eternal separation from God. (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6; 11-15; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17)

WE BELIEVE In the reality of freedom in Christ. This freedom creates a climate which allows for differences of opinion in matters of interpretation, doctrine and practice within the context of biblical guidelines and historical Christianity. (John; 8:31-32,36; Romans 14; Galatians 5:1,13; 1 Peter 2:16; James 1:25)