

# Statement of Faith

## I Am Church

### 1. The Trinity

- a. We believe in the Trinity as in that there is God the Father (Creator), His son, Jesus Christ (our Redeemer), and the Holy Spirit (Guide), who brings us to sanctification and conviction as we walk out our salvation.
- b. **1 Peter 1:2**
  - i. “According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood; May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”
- c. **Matthew 28:19**
  - i. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

### 2. Scripture is infallible

- a. We believe that all scripture is infallible and God’s true word.
- b. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
  - i. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

### 3. Christ’s Death on the Cross

- a. We believe that God has atoned for all sins by paying the penalty for all our sins by allowing His son Jesus to die on the cross for us.
- b. **1 John 2:2**
  - i. “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

### 4. Salvation

- a. We believe that anyone can receive the gift of salvation if they are willing to surrender their lives to Christ and see their need for Him. There is no specific prayer that saves other than knowledge that they are flawed and in need of His salvation. They must not only know, but believe it and confess to God. This leads to action as God’s word says, “Faith without works is dead.”
- b. **Romans 10:9-13**
  - i. “Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on Him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- c. **John 3:16**
  - i. “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

## 5. Live Out Our Salvation

a. We believe that God calls us to live out our salvation which manifests as the Christian walk. God's restoration and redemption are not finished in us until we are present with the Lord after death or His return. Therefore, we need to strive to fight temptation and sin as we strive to be like Christ.

### b. Philippians 2:12-13

i. "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his pleasure."

### c. 2 Corinthians 5:17

i. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

### d. 1 Corinthians 15:30-31

i. "Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!"

## 6. The Bride of Christ

a. We believe that the Church is the Bride of Christ and that it is His vessel for edification, fellowship, support, and coming to praise God as one body.

### b. Hebrews 10:24-25

i. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and do good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

## 7. Marriage

a. We believe that marriage is between a husband and a wife and that it should be modeled after God and the Church. The purpose of marriage is to allow us to understand God's love for His people.

### b. Ephesians 5: 22-23

i. "Wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wives even as Christ is the head of the Church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loves the Church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the Church holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the Church, because we are members of His body. 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

## 8. The Second Coming

- a. We believe that the Lord will return in a second coming as stated in His word. The final judgment will come.
- b. **John 14:3**
  - i. “And If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you myself, that where I am you may be also.”
- c. **2 Corinthians 5:10**
  - i. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”
- d. **Philippians 2:10-11**
  - i. “So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

## 9. Convictions of the Holy Spirit

- a. We believe that convictions are the Holy Spirit’s role and not our own We believe that we need to love others, even when convictions vary. We believe caution is of the utmost importance when dealing with convictions. We believe love and God’s Spirit must be present as we handle each situation so that we do not fall into religious legalism, but yet still adhere to a Godly lifestyle.
- b. **Romans 14**
  - i. “As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteem all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, ‘As I live, says the lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So, then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. I know I am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that

nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. So, do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So, then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.”

## **10. Water Baptism**

- a. We believe in Water Baptism as a symbolic gesture signifying the change in the spirit with an outward gesture of putting to death the old and bringing to life the new. We believe it is vital to be baptized as we are to mimic and be Christ-like. If Jesus believed it was important we be baptized, we believe it is important too. That being said, it is not the baptism itself that saves, but the spiritual baptism that only Christ can do.
- b. **Mark 16:16**
  - i. “Whoever believes and his baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”
- c. **Luke 3:21**
  - i. When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased.’”
- d. **Matthew 28:18-20**
  - i. “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

## **11. Giving to the Lord**

- a. We believe that giving to the Lord is a crucial aspect of living for the Lord. It shows that we serve God and not the master of money/greed. We believe that a true believer bears fruit of obedience and God has called us to give and to give out of the abundance of the heart. To give with a willing and cheerful heart as King David gave to the building of God’s temple. We believe that God has called us to give according to him and not a specific number based on guilt, but rather

out of love. This means that some will give more than “tithe” and some will give less. We should strive to be obedient and that means giving as God directs us to give, not as man.

**b. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

- i. “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

**c. Matthew 6:19-24**

- i. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

**d. Malachi 3:10**

- i. “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

**12. Correction**

- a. We believe that there is a need for correction. God’s word tells us to keep each other accountable and support each other. That means that we need to first and foremost allow the Holy Spirit to guide and convict, but to respond in love. Love does not make light of sin; it is eager to bring to light that which is wrong for the edification of restoration. Restoration cannot take place without true repentance and acknowledgement of sin. However, love does not belittle or cast down those that have fallen, but rather encourages and pushes for one another to be brought back into the light. “We can’t expect perfection in others and allow grace for ourselves to be a work in progress.” – Author. We need to extend that empathy and understanding to others, that no one is perfect, yet we should strive to be like Christ who is perfection.

**b. Proverbs 27:17**

- i. “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

**c. Galatians 6:1**

- i. “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

**d. James 5:16**

- i. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

### **13. Resolving Conflict**

- a. We believe that resolving conflicts within the church can be messy and sometimes people can get really hurt. That is why it is so crucial to follow God's method of resolving issues in the church.

#### **b. Matthew 18:15-17**

- i. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

### **14. Help Those in Need**

- a. We believe that it is not the government's job, or anyone else's job to the hand the helps those in need. God commands us to take care of the poor and those in need. It is the "Church's job."

#### **b. Matthew 25:34-40**

- i. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' Ant the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

### **15. Be Prepared to Answer for our Faith**

- a. We believe that we need to be prepared to answer for our faith. This extends to listening to the Holy Spirit as he guides us to intended appointments to share the good news. It isn't enough to share the gospel, but God calls us to share and to disciple. Disciplining is to develop. And mentor and to keep accountable.

#### **b. Matthew 5:13-16**

- i. "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

#### **c. Matthew 28:18-20**

- i. “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**d. 1 Peter 3:15**

- i. “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

**e. Acts 8:26-40**

- i. “Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was a Ethiopian, eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over and join this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of Scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life was taken away from the earth.’ And the eunuch said to Philip, ‘About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came Caesarea.”

**16. Pastor Qualifications**

- a. We believe that our pastors need to be true shepherds. They need to be kingdom-focused, not focused on what they gain, but how to counsel and teach God’s people. They must have a genuine relationship with God and care for their flock (their congregation). They must be people who are mature in their walk with the Lord as they will be God’s vessel to lead the church.

**b. 1 Timothy 3:1-7**

- i. “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not

quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

#### **17. Deacons/Leaders/Board Members**

- a. We believe that leaders must also be Christ-minded and mature Christians. This means they understand what they believe and are able to aid in leading other members.
- b. 1 Timothy 3:8-13**
  - i. Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to too much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."

#### **18. Forgiveness**

- a. We believe that when we have a heart of repentance, Christ offers us love and forgiveness. We believe that as we are to be Christ-minded, forgiveness is a necessity. Christ loves the church and offers forgiveness to them. We must do the same to those who wrong us.
- b. Luke 17:3-4**
  - i. "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and he if repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turn to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."
- c. Ephesians 4:31-32**
  - i. "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."
- d. Colossians 3:13**
  - i. "If one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord, has forgiven you, so you must also forgive."
- e. 1 John 1:9**
  - i. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

#### **19. Being a Servant**

- a. We believe we are to follow Christ's example in being a servant. For we are put on this earth, not for selfish reasons, but to serve the kingdom of Heaven.
- b. Philippians 2:5-8**



- i. "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

**c. John 13:12-15**

- i. "When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, you Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do just as I have done to you.'"

**d. Matthew 20:28**

- i. "Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**20. Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

- a. We believe that the Bible teaches clearly that each Christian is given a spiritual gift. This is a divinely determined and granted capacity for ministry, and God wants us to use it. We can't choose our spiritual gift. He gives his gifts as he sees fit.

**b. 1 Corinthians 12:11**

- i. "All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

**c. Romans 12:6-8**

- i. "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

**d. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10**

- i. "For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues."

**e. 1 Corinthians 12:28-31**

- i. "And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing/ Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."

**f. Ephesians 4:11**

- i. “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers.”

**g. 1 Peter 4:9-11**

- i. “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”