

ARTICLE III Statement of Belief

1. We believe in one God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Gen 1:1, Deut 6:4, Isa 43:10-11, Matt 28:19, John 1:1, 1 Cor 8:4-6)
2. We believe that Jesus the Messiah is fully man and fully God; was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of God, He is now our High Priest and Advocate. (Matt 1:18-23, John 1:1-18, 1 Cor 15:3-8, Heb 7:22-8:2, 1 Peter 3:18)
3. We believe that Jesus is present in the church by means of the Holy Spirit who was sent to dwell in us for the purpose of teaching, guiding, and empowering. We believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be active in the Body of Christ today, but are not exclusive signs of membership in the church. (John 14:16-26, 15:26, Acts 1:8, 1 Cor 12:1-14:40, Heb 2:3-4)
4. We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and the authoritative revelation for the purpose of teaching, rebuking, correcting and training. Together, the Old and New Testaments constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice. (Ex 32:15-16, Deut 6:6-9, Psalms 19:7-11, Matt 5:17-20, 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
5. We believe that by the grace of God, through the sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, we have forgiveness of sins and pass from death to eternal life. The church appropriates this new life by confessing this truth and by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit in daily life. (Rom 5:8-10, 10:9-10, Eph 2:4-10, 1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 John 1:7-9)
6. We believe the kingdom of God is a present reality, where Jesus is supernaturally reigning and ruling in the lives of those who submit to His kingship, and shall yet come to its full realization when the Son of Man returns in glory. (Matt 4:17 NASB, Luke 17:21 NASB, Luke 4:16-21, Eph 2:17-22, 1 Thess 2:12)
7. We believe that the church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God to all nations and raising up disciples. The local church is a Body of Believers in Jesus who are joined together for worship of God, fellowship with one another, the proclamation and teaching of the gospel of His kingdom, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Matt 28:18-20, Luke 22:19-20, Acts 2:42-47, Rom 5:8-11, Eph 1:22-23, 1 Peter 2:9)
8. We believe the second coming of Jesus the Messiah is certain and will be visible to all. This is the Believer's blessed hope and is an incentive to holy living and faithful service. At His coming there shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection resulting in life; for the latter, a resurrection resulting in judgment. (Acts 1:9-11, 2 Cor 5:1-10, 1 Thess 4:13-18, Titus 2:13, Rev 21:1-4)