



Live TODAY to Impact TOMORROW!

MEN OF RESOLUTION STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1.01. *Application and Discipline.* All Directors, Officers, Agents, Employees, Students, Teachers, Parents, Pastors, Deacons, Deaconesses, facilitators, and all other persons involved in or with any of the Corporation's Worship Services or Ministries, including those attending Worship Services and/or Ministries, agree with and are subject to the Tenets set forth in this Statement of Faith. The Board shall be the sole authoritative interpreter of Scripture.

Separate to and independent of any other disciplinary provision contained in any other Article of the Corporation's Bylaws, any act by any Director, Officer, Agent, Employee, Student, Teacher, Parent, Pastor, Deacon, Deaconess, facilitators, or any other person involved in or with any of the Corporation's Worship Services or Ministries, including those attending Worship Services and/or Ministries, that is determined by the Board to be contrary to or in violation of any section of this Statement of Faith shall constitute adequate cause and grounds for immediate and summary termination, removal, and/or expulsion from the Corporation or any of its Ministries. Such discipline may be publically reported to the Corporation's Congregation and its Ministries, and may be reported to any other churches, synagogues, etc. upon request. In reaching any disciplinary determination, the decision of the Board shall be final and binding and non-appealable; nor shall the Board's application of the Biblical Principles set forth in this Statement of Faith and/or the Board's interpretation of Scripture to support such determination be reviewable by any court of law or equity.

Section 1.02. *God is Triune.* There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth and love. In the unity of the godhead there are three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal. The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is truly Deity. One God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — is the foundation of Christian faith and life. See, Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Psalm 18:30-31 and 147:5, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 12:29, Luke 3:22, John 10:30 and 14:6-9, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Hebrews 1:1-4.

Section 1.03. *God the Father.* God the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth. By His word and for His glory, He freely and supernaturally created the world out of nothing. Through the same Word He daily sustains all His creatures. He rules over all and, together with the Son and the Spirit, is the only Sovereign God. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love Him and in His unfathomable grace gave His Son Jesus Christ for mankind's redemption. He made all things for the praise of His glory and intends for man in particular



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to live in fellowship with Himself. See, Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:3-20, Psalm 46:1-10, Psalm 145:8-20, Romans 8:28-39.

Section 1.04. *Jesus Christ.* Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the eternal Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He is perfect in nature, teaching and obedience. He is fully God and is fully man. He was always with God and is God. Through Him all things came into being and were created. He was before all things and in Him all things hold together by the word of His power. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation and in Him dwells the fullness of the godhead bodily. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world having shed His blood and died a vicarious death on Calvary's cross. By His death in our place, He revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, the third day He rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness and for a period of forty days appeared to over five hundred witnesses performing many convincing proofs of His resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over all, awaiting His return. He is the Head of His body, the church, and should be adored, loved, served and obeyed by all. See, Acts 4:10-12, John 1:1-5, 14, 29 and 5:18, 8:58, 10:30, and 14:6-7, Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7, Matthew 1:18-25, Mark 14:61-62, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Philippians 2:5-11, Colossians 1:13-14 and 2:6-9, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 1:1-9, 1 John 5:20, Isaiah 53:5-6, Luke 24:26-43, John 3:16 and 20:25-28, Acts 1:6-11, Romans 3:21-26, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

Section 1.05. *The Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel He persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son who in turn came to glorify the Father. He will lead the church into a right understanding and rich application of the truth of God's Word. He is to be respected, honored and worshipped as God the Third Person of the Trinity. See, John 3:5-8, 14:16-17 and 26, 15:26-27, 16:7-15, Acts 1:8 and 5:3-4, Romans 8:9-11 and 14, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, 6:11, 19 and 12:4-13, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 5:16-18 and 22-25, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, and 5:18-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Section 1.06. *The Scriptures.* We accept the Bible exclusively, including the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament, as the written Word of God. The Bible is an essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. It leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Being given by God, the Scriptures are both fully and verbally inspired by God. Therefore, as



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originally given, the Bible is free of error in all it teaches. Each book is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose and in reverent obedience to the Lord who speaks through it in living power. All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures and diligently apply them to their lives. The Scriptures are the authoritative and normative rule and guide of all Christian life, practice and doctrine. They are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superseded or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation or worldly wisdom. Every doctrinal formulation, whether of creed, confession, or theology, must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture. See, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Revelation 22:18-19, Mark 13:31.

Section 1.07. *Man.* God made man—male and female—in His own image, as the crown of creation, that man might glorify Him through enjoying fellowship with Him. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God. Being estranged from his Maker, yet responsible to Him, he became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and apart from a special work of grace, utterly incapable of returning to God. This depravity is extreme, outrageous, and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ alone. See, Genesis 2:7-25, 3:1-24, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Jeremiah 17:7-10, John 3:19-21, Romans 1:18-32, 3:9-18 and 21-26, 5:12-14, Ephesians 2:1-3.

Section 1.08. *The Gospel.* Jesus Christ is the gospel. The good news is revealed in His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. Christ's crucifixion is the heart of the gospel, His resurrection is the power of the gospel and His ascension is the glory of the gospel. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and appeases His holy wrath. It also demonstrates His mysterious love and reveals His amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which men must be saved. At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed sinners have of glorifying God because of what He has accomplished. Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts, churches and ministries to proceed from and be related to the gospel. See, John 3:16-18, Matthew 16:13-29, Acts 2:22-39, 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, 3:10-15, and 15:1-8, Romans 1:16-18, 3:21-26, 5:1-6, 5:15-17.

Section 1.09. *Man's Response to the Gospel.* The proper response to the gospel is faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, a faith which is naturally accompanied by repentance from sin. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by kingdom service or works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross,



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and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple. This response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for His own pleasure and glory. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all people in all nations. See, Mark 1:15, Matthew 21:28-32, John 3:3-8, 1 Corinthians 2:2, Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-2, 6:23, 10:8-13, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Ephesians 2:4-10, Colossians 2:8-15, 1 Peter 1:10-23, 1 John 1:5-10 and 2:1-6.

Section 1.10. *Man's Inheritance Through the Gospel.* Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Anyone turning from sin in repentance and looking to Christ and His substitutionary death receives the gift of eternal life and is declared righteous by God as a free gift. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him. He is justified and fully accepted by God. Through Christ's atonement for sin an individual is reconciled to God as Father and becomes His child. The believer is forgiven the debt of his sin and via the miracle of regeneration liberated from the law of sin and death into the freedom of God's Holy Spirit. See, John 3:3-8, 1 Corinthians 2:2, Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-2, 6:23, 8:1-9, 8:31-39, 10:8-13, 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Galatians 3:11-14, 5:1, Ephesians 1:2-14, 2:1-10, 3:14-21, Colossians 2:8-15, 3:1-4, 17, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Peter 1:10-23, 1 John 1:5-10 and 2:1-6.

Section 1.11. *Sanctification.* The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification and seeks to produce His fruit in us as our minds are renewed and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Though indwelling sin remains a reality, as we are led by the Spirit, we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, freely keeping His commandments and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word and deed. The spiritual disciplines, especially Bible study, prayer, worship and confession, are a vital means of grace in this regard. Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve His people until the end. See, Ephesians 3:16-20, Colossians 3:1-10, Titus 3:3-7, 2 Peter 1:2-11, Jude 17-25.

Section 1.12. *Empowered by the Spirit.* The Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian witness and service. The promise of the Father is freely available to all who believe in Jesus Christ, thereby enabling them to exercise the powers of the age to come in ministry and mission. The Holy Spirit desires to continually fill each believer with power to witness, and imparts His supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and the work of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first-century are available today and are to be earnestly desired and practiced in an orderly manner. The gifts are essential in the mission of the Church in the world today. See, John 14:15-



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17, 25-29, 15:26-27, 16:5-15, Ephesians 3:14-21, Acts 2:36-41, 4:31, Romans 8:1-17, 26-30, 1 Corinthians 12:1-14.

Section 1.13. *The Church.* God by His Word and Spirit creates the church, calling sinful men out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ's Body. By the same Word and Spirit, He guides and preserves that new redeemed humanity. The church is not a religious institution or denomination. Rather, the church universal is made up of those who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ and have personally appropriated the gospel. The church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It also exists to serve Him by faithfully doing His will in the earth. This involves a commitment to see the gospel preached and churches planted in the entire world for a testimony. The ultimate mission of the church is worship and the means by which this is accomplished is the making of disciples through the preaching and embracing of the gospel. When God transforms human nature, this then becomes the chief means of society's transformation. Upon conversion, newly redeemed men and women are added to a local church in which they devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper and prayer. All members of the church universal are to be a vital and committed part of a local church. In this context they are called to walk out the New Covenant as the people of God and demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God. The ascended Christ has given gift ministries to the church (including prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) for the equipping of Christ's body that it might mature and grow. Through the gift ministries all members of the church are to be nurtured and equipped for the work of the ministry. In the context of the local church, God's people receive pastoral care and leadership and the opportunity to employ their God-given gifts in His service in relation to one another and to the world. See, Acts 2:40-47, Ephesians 3:4-12, 4:4-16, Romans 16:25-27, 1 Timothy 2:1-10, 3:1-13, 4:4-16, 2 Timothy 2:1-13, 4:1-5, Titus 2:1-15, Hebrews 12:1-2, 13:1-17, Jude 17-25.

Section 1.14. *Ordinances of the Church.* Water baptism is only intended for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become His disciple. Therefore, in obedience to Christ's command and as a testimony to God, the church, oneself and the world, a believer should be immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Jesus Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that his former way of life has been put to death and vividly depicts a person's release from the mastery of sin. As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf, and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of



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Jesus Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body. See, 1 Corinthians 11:17-32, Acts 20:7, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:1-6, Colossians 2:12.

Section 1.15. *The Consummation.* The consummation of all things includes the future, physical, visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the consummation, Satan with his hosts and all those outside Christ are finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment, but the righteous, in glorious bodies, shall live and reign with Him forever, serving Him and giving Him unending praise and glory. Then shall the eager expectation of creation be fulfilled and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God Who makes all things new. See, Isaiah 65:17, 66:15-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11, 2 Peter 3:1-13, Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-27.

Section 1.16. Marriage and Sexuality; Proof of Gender. The term “*marriage*” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one unmarried man (who has been a male continuously since his birth and who has not undergone gender/sexual reassignment surgery and who may not claim or assert such gender by reference to or reliance upon transgenderism, gender transition, and/or gender identity, which are specifically and expressly inconsistent with the Word of God and, therefore, expressly rejected and proscribed as a measure, method, or means of defining, determining, claiming, asserting, or expressing gender) and one unmarried woman (who has been a female continuously since her birth and who has not undergone gender/sexual reassignment surgery and who may not claim or assert such gender by reference to or reliance upon transgenderism, gender transition, and/or gender identity, which are specifically and expressly inconsistent with the Word of God and, therefore, expressly rejected and proscribed as a measure, method, or means of defining, determining, claiming, asserting, or expressing gender) in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. See, Genesis 2:18-25, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:3-9, Ephesians 5:28-33. For purposes of the Corporation’s Articles of Incorporation and amendments thereto, Bylaws and amendments thereto, and Statement of Faith and amendments thereto, proof of one’s gender may be requested at any time by the Corporation. Such proof of gender will be satisfied only by providing a certified copy of the original birth certificate without any annotations, amendments, interlineations, or other alterations to the section that identifies the biological gender at the time of birth. Any other document purporting to be a birth certificate that omits the biological gender or identifies gender as something other than male or female at the time of birth shall not constitute proof of gender. An amended, updated, court ordered, or superseding birth certificate that changes the biological gender at birth shall not constitute proof of gender; nor shall proof of gender be established by any amended, updated, court ordered, or newly created birth certificate that



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omits the biological gender or identifies gender as something other than male or female at the time of birth as set forth in the unaltered original birth certificate. The Board of Directors shall be the sole authority to accept or reject any proof of gender and the stated decision shall not be reviewable by a court or any other public or private individual or authority, as the Board shall be and is the sole authoritative interpreter of Scripture. God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged-in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. See, Ephesians 5:3-5, 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, Galatians 5:16-25. Any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, bigamy, polyamory, transgenderism, gender transition, gender identity, or any attempt to change one's biological gender by surgical means, transgenderism, gender transition, and/or gender identity, including disagreement with one's own biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God. See, Ephesians 5:1-3, Hebrews 13:4, Isaiah 5:20-21, Leviticus 18:22 and 20:10-16, Deuteronomy 23:17-18, 1 Timothy 1:8-17, Romans 1:22-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, Galatians 5:16-23, Hebrews 12:15-17, 2 Samuel 11:2-12:15. In order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Corporation or any of its Ministries in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers in the Corporation or any of its Ministries, should abide by and agree to this entire Statement of Faith, including this statement on Marriage and Sexuality, and conduct themselves accordingly. See, Hebrews 13:4-8, Hebrews 13:17-21, Colossians 3:1-17. God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. See, Romans 3:21-26, Romans 10:8-17, Ephesians 2:1-10, James 5:16-20. Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church. See, Galatians 6:1-3, 1 Peter 4:1-11.

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