

## **OUTREACH CENTER**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The fundamental teachings of this congregation are reflected in the following statements of faith. Our purpose in stating these basic beliefs is to establish a doctrinal foundation for those choosing to affiliate with us.

**(A)** We believe the Bible, composed of the Old and the New Testaments, is the Word of God, a divine, supernatural infallible revelation. We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the original writings of the Scriptures, and as thus given were wholly without error of any kind.

(II Timothy 3:16, I Corinthians 2:13, II Peter 1:21).

**(B)** We believe in the Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14, 1 Peter 1:2, John 14:26).

**(C)** We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of God the Father, and in His personal return in Power and Glory. (Luke 1:26-35, John 1:14-18, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, Phil. 2:6, Rom. 9:5, Col. 2:9, I Corinthians 15:1-4, Romans 4:25, John 14:2-3, I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

**(D)** We believe that man, created in the image of God; fell into sin through the sin of the first Adam, and in that sense is lost and separated from God. We believe that lost mankind must be born again, regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:12, 18).

**(E)** We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and complete work of Jesus on the Cross by which we obtain total forgiveness of sin. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Hebrews 9:12, 22, Romans 5:11).

**(F)** We believe that water baptism and communion are open only to those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. These sacraments are observed in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ as acts of love and devotion and are not to be considered necessary for salvation (Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:34-36, 19:1-6, I Corinthians 11:17-28).

**(G)** We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ, and that He is our abiding helper, teacher, and guide. (Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 2:12-14).

**(H)** We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as a real experience, at or subsequent to salvation, empowering believers as witnesses of Christ and subsequent ongoing filling of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4, 8:14-17, 10:44-46, Ephesians 5:18).

**(I)** We believe that the Holy Spirit manifests His power and work for fruitfulness in and through believers as they abide in Jesus and in His love. (John 15)

**(J)** We believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is manifested in the life of all believers through a variety of spiritual gifts to build-up and sanctify the church. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of these gifts in their lives and it is the Holy Spirit that determines the distribution of these gifts in the Body. These gifts always operate in harmony with the scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters. (I Corinthians 12:14).

**(K)** We believe in the healing of the sick; healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign, which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit. (Psalm 103:2-3, Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 16:17-18, Acts 8:6-7, James 5:14-16, 1 Corinthians 12:9; 28, Romans 11:29.)

**(L)** We believe Christians should live life in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, their reputation, or the church. As a display of a growing Christian lifestyle, there should be a rejection of, and turning from sinful pleasures and practices (Romans 12: 1-2, Ephesians 5:18, II Corinthians 6:14, 7:1, I John 2:15-17, II John 9-11).

**(M)** We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and that he is the declared enemy of God and man. We further believe that a Christian can be tempted by Satan, and a Christian can be demonized (*to be under the power or influence of a demon in certain areas*) (Matthew 25:41, II Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1).

**(N)** We believe in eternal life for believers (John 5:24, 3:16), and eternal punishment and separation from God for unbelievers (Mark 9:43-48, II Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 20:10-15, Matthew 25:46).

**(O)** We believe there is one universal Church, made up of genuine believers, and this one universal Church is also composed of many local churches. These churches are under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ, not controlled by outside people or groups (Acts 15:22, Matthew 16:18, 18:15-20).

**(P)** We believe God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God (Romans 13:1-7, Ephesians 5:22-24, Hebrews 13:17, I Peter 2:13-14).

**(Q)** We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a God-ordained marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Genesis 2:24, 19:5-13, 26:8-9, Leviticus 18:1-30, Romans 1:26-29, I Corinthians 5:1, 6:9, I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Hebrews 13:4).

**(R)** We believe human life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified taking of unborn human life. We believe that for women who have had an abortion that God loves them and forgiveness is available. There is no mistake so big, no guilt so profound, no sin so overwhelming that it cannot be washed away through faith in Jesus Christ (Job 3:16, Psalms 51:5, 139:14-16, Isaiah 44:24, 49:1, Luke 1:44, Psalm 103:11, 12).

**(S)** We believe that every Christian, as a steward of the wealth entrusted to him, should give cheerfully to the support of the church in tithes and offerings for the relief of those in need and the spread of the Gospel (Genesis 14:20, Proverbs 3:9-10, Acts 4:34-37, I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-7, Galatians 6:6, Ephesians 4:28, I Timothy 5:17-18, I John 3:17).

**(T)** We believe worship is given solely for God's glory and honor. Our response to God in worship, though sometimes emotional, will flow out of our sincere relationship with God (Deuteronomy. 5:6-10, John 12:3-8, Romans 1:20-23, Romans 12:1-8).

**(U)** We believe in the universal priesthood of believers and the universal ministry of believers. There are many ministries in the body of Christ. Some may seem more prominent and even more spectacular than others, but every believer is called to minister. Every believer has a ministry. We must know this and with all our hearts search out God's will for our ministry. (1 Peter 2:4-5, Ephesians 4:11-16)

(V) We believe in the importance and primacy of prayer. We place great emphasis on prayer since it is the lifeline of the individual and the church body. Through prayer we are linked to the supernatural power of God. Unless we function as a praying church we will operate in human energy rather than divine power. (Matthew 21:13; 21:22, Acts 1:14, Philippians 4:6)