



## General Belief Statement

### **God**

God is creator and sustainer of all things. The basis of His Kingdom is righteousness and justice, which is expressed in His unbounded and measureless love, mercy, grace and truth. God is One and Triune, eternally existent in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1; Ps. 89:14; 139:7; 148; Is. 46:5-10; Jn 17; Eph. 3:14-19; 4:4-6; 1 Jn. 4:7-11; 1 Pet. 1:2)

### **The Father**

The Father is the creator and sustainer of all things. He created mankind in His own image and likeness for fellowship. He relates to people as Father, thereby forever declaring His goodwill toward them. He calls all to love Him wholeheartedly and recover the relationship that was lost after the fall, mercifully concerns Himself in the affairs of mankind, and hears and responds to prayers of faith. (Deut. 6:4; Ps. 68:5-6; Isa. 64:8; Mt. 5:45; 6:5-14; 7:7-12; 18:10-11; Jn. 3:16-17; Rom. 8:15-17)

### **The Son**

Jesus Christ the Messiah, as eternally God, was preexistent with the Father and the Holy Spirit, was conceived and born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and offered Himself as a substitutionary sacrifice for the redemption of mankind. He was raised on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father and is there to make intercession for mankind forever. He will return to earth again to reign in righteousness. (Ps. 22; Is. 7:14; 11:1-5; 53; Mt. 1:18-25; Jn. 1:1-18; 14:6-11; Rom. 8:31-39; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; 12-19; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 3:10-14; Eph. 1:3-14; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:9-23; Heb. 1; 7:7-28; 9:11-15; 10:1-24; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; 1 Jn. 2:1-2)

### **The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is God, was active in the Old Testament, and today actively regenerates, indwells, cleanses, comforts, guides, illuminates, reveals truth, convicts, convinces, and empowers believers for service, imparting and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to believers to be used for the work of the ministry and edification, bearing witness of God's presence and His kingdom through the fruit of the Spirit. (Gen. 1:2; 41:38; Ex. 31:3; Num. 11:17-29; Neh. 9:30; Ps. 51:11; Mt. 3:11; Luke 24:49; Jn. 1:12-13; 3:1-8; 14:15-17; 16:5-15; Acts 1:4-8; 4:29-30; Rom. 8:9-11; 12:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; 21-22; Gal. 3:2-5; 5:16-25; Eph. 1:13-14; 5:18)

### **The Scriptures**

The 66 books constituting the Bible are the inspired and infallible Word of God. Its authority is ultimate, final, and eternal. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction, reproof, and practical guidance in godliness. (Mt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

### **Salvation**

Salvation is a free gift of God's grace through faith in Christ the Messiah. No ordinance, ritual, work or any other activity on the part of man is required or accepted for salvation. This saving grace of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also sanctifies us by enabling us to do what is pleasing in God's sight, that we might be progressively conformed to the image of Christ. (Ps. 3:8; Is. 40:3-5; 53:4-5; Jn. 1:12-13; 6:35-51; 10:7-17; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 8:1-17, 31-39; 10:8-13; Eph. 2:4-10; Phil. 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Jn. 1:7-8)

**Baptism:** We affirm that water baptism signifies union with the Lord in His death, burial and resurrection, and the abiding presence or indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is the outward sign of the confession of the individual's heart. We also affirm that the Lord baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Mat. 3:11; Acts 1:4-8; 2:37-39; 8:15-17; 19:1-6)

**The Purpose of Faith:** True faith is of a trusting nature of the heart, not just the mind. God requires trusting faith expressed through faithful actions to please Him and glorify Him. He looks for us to raise our focus beyond the temporal things the natural eye sees and refocus towards God's higher and more eternal purposes and ways of His Kingdom found in the life of Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit reveals the deeper things and ways of God that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (Jn. 14-17; Rom. 10:10; 1 Cor. 2:12; Heb. 11; Jam. 2:14-26)

**Humanity:** Man was created in God's image, endowed with a capacity to have intimate fellowship with God, and was given a free will. Satan, the originator of sin, led our first parents into transgression by casting doubt on God's Word and truth, appealing to their capacity and carnal inclination to sin (iniquity). Their willful disobedience subjected them to a state of enmity with God, and likewise separation from God, resulting in a state of spiritual death. God provided for a means of reconciling man to Himself through the sacrificial atonement of Messiah Jesus. In His death and resurrection, He manifested the victory over the power of sin and death and Satan's counter-kingdom of darkness and evil. God's provision for His children is total, and the promises are forever. Our shortcomings are part of our human nature, which can be transformed by the renewing of our mind and strengthening of the Holy Spirit. Our lives are filled with trials, tests, and warfare against a spiritual enemy, however, God's promises of grace and eternal blessing in His presence is assured. To remain faithful through all circumstances of life requires trusting faith and dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and a willingness to die to carnal desires and passions. (Gen. 1:26-3:24; 6; Ps. 25; 51; Rom. 4-7; Eph. 2:1-10; 1 Pet. 5:8-10)

**The Community of Believers, Missions and Service:** God has called for an extended community of believers to be a light to the world, proclaiming salvation in accordance with the Scriptures to every nation, tribe, tongue and people, in word and demonstration of the Spirit in love, therefore acting as God's primary instrument through which He fulfills His redemptive purposes. We are called to make disciples, remember the poor and minister to their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service. This ministry is an expression of the heart of God and is an essential part of the kingdom of God. To equip the community of believers for the work of ministry, God has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. All believers are priests and joined in active service. (Mat. 28:18; Mk. 16:15-18; Jn 13:13-17; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; Eph. 4-6; 1 Pet. 2:9-25; 1 Jn. 3-4; Rev. 5:9-10)

**The Advancement of the Kingdom:** John the Baptist affirmed what Messiah Jesus proclaimed at the beginning of His ministry: "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Since the beginning, God has, and will continue to advance His kingdom on earth, fulfilling the plans of His heart by the counsel of His will, in accordance with His will as the Lord prayed in John 17. He accomplishes His will through willing and faithful servants who engage and participate with Him. God alone initiates His plans, and He accomplishes them through God-ordained processes. He, therefore, seeks participants who will walk with the fear of the Lord and be faithful stewards of His gifts and causes. (Ps. 22:27-31; 33:10-11; Mat. 3:1-3; 4:23; Mk. 4:11; Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:25-28)

**The Jewish people and Israel:** The Jewish people are the people through whom God initially committed His oracles; and to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises, which include the Messiah and Holy Spirit. They are still a covenant people chosen by God to be a channel of blessing to all the nations of the earth. God continues to accomplish His purposes in and through the Jewish people and land of Israel. The return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel is a testimony and fulfillment of Bible prophecy. A day will come when Israel as a nation will accept Yeshua-Jesus the Messiah. Then shall the Word of God go forth from Zion and the Messiah will come again to establish His world-wide rule from Jerusalem. (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:18-21; 35:9-12; Is. 2:1-4; 11; 66; Zec. 12-14; Mic.4; Rom. 3:2; 9:3-5; 10-11)

**Satan and Evil:** Satan is the spiritual adversary of God and God's followers. He actively opposes the work of mankind and God's community of believers through the work of His counter-kingdom of darkness, causing evil and unrest on the earth. It is therefore important to stand against such activity by standing on God's Word, maintaining sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and a willingness to submit to the cross personal desires, unholy passions, and thoughts that exalt themselves above the knowledge of God. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross and at the end of the age will be cast forever into the lake of fire which has been prepared for him. (Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:14-19; Mt. 12:25-29; Jn. 12:31; 16:11; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Eph. 6:10-20; Col. 2:15; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:7-9; 20:10)

**Eschatology:** We affirm the bodily second coming of Messiah—Jesus Christ, the resurrection of believers, the millennium, and the final judgment. The final judgment will determine the eternal status of both, believers and unbelievers, determined by their relationship to God. We affirm with the Bible the final state of the new heavens and the new earth. We also believe in and are praying for a great end-time harvest of souls and the emergence of a victorious Church that will experience unity, purity, and power in the Holy Spirit. (Ps. 2:7-9, 22:27-28; Dan. 12; Mat. 24:3-31; 1 Cor. 15:20-28, 42-58; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 2 Thes. 2:1-12; Rev. 7:9-17; 11:15-18; 12-13; 19-22)

### **Marriage and Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:18-25; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4; Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31)