





Statement of Faith

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 Purpose	

Nicene Creed (1988 ecumenical version, ELLC)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Apostles' Creed (1988 ecumenical version, ELLC)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

God: God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe, existing eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These members of the Trinity are divine co-equals, simultaneously both three and one. The Father is the First Person of the Trinity. The Son and the Holy Spirit are equal with the Father, but voluntarily submit to His will. The Father is an invisible spirit who is all-knowing and present everywhere at all times.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 1:20

The Son: The Son (also referred to as the Word) exists eternally with the Father and Holy Spirit. He is equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh – the Son of God in human form – and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the atonement of humanity's sins by dying on the cross. He was resurrected after three days, thus conquering sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory where He sits at the right hand of the Father and makes intercession on behalf of those who trust in Him. Jesus will return for His Church at which time He will return again to Earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:27, 34; John 1:1-5; John 14:10-31; Hebrews 4:14-15; Hebrews 5:5-10; Hebrews 7:23-28; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world convicting mankind of sin and making us aware of

our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with sanctification – power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7- 14; John 14:25-26; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; Galatians 5:25

The Bible: God reveals Himself through His creation, so that all are without excuse, and through the Word - the Bible. The Bible is God's Word to all mankind. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is complete in its present form, and we should not add to it or subtract from it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth inerrant and infallible – the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

Romans 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

Salvation: Salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus. It is a free gift to us, which we must accept in order to experience eternal life – life in harmony with God and thus also avoiding eternity in isolation from God in hell. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we repent, turn from our self-ruled, sin-filled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one trusts Jesus Christ as Savior by faith. We also affirm that salvation is ongoing and not merely a one-time event: we were saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved.

John 3:16-17; Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Human Beings: People are made in the image of God, to be like Him. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Because the first man Adam disobeyed the revealed will of God in the Garden of Eden, he passed down to mankind a sinful nature. All people are sinners by nature and by choice and are therefore spiritually dead, in need of salvation.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Isaiah 53:6a; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2

The Believer: Every believer has direct access to God. The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to full-time Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. The Holy Spirit endows each believer with spiritual gifts.

Although we do not discourage the use of “sign gifts”. Instead, we seek to emphasize the more excellent way of love as well as zeal for the more edifying gifts.

1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:18; 1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 4:4; 1 Corinthians 2:15; John 14:15; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 12:11-13, 12:19, 12:31; Galatians 5:25

The Church: Christ is the recognized head of our Church, not any person, group or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control.

Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:19b-23, 4:3-10; Colossians 3:14-15

Baptism: Water baptism is the symbol used to describe our salvation experience and to publicly declare our commitment to Christ. We practice baptism by immersion – in the manner Jesus was baptized.

Acts 8:36-38; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12; Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22

The Lord’s Supper: The Lord’s Supper consists of two elements; the bread and the cup. The bread symbolizes the broken body of Jesus, and the cup represents The New Covenant in His shed blood. We as believers are to take the bread and cup in a worthy manner, after a period of self-examination, to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Jeremiah 31:31-34

Marriage and Sexuality: Marriage is a covenant relationship designed and ordained by God from the very beginning of creation as a union between one man and one woman. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. A civil government’s sanction of a union will be

recognized as a legitimate marriage by this church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of “marriage” as indicated in Scripture. Human sexuality is a gift to humankind designed for expression only within the context of marriage; any form of sexual activity outside of a marriage between one man and one woman is a perversion of God’s intent. God created human beings male and female; therefore we hold the distinction between the two sexes to be sacred. We believe all aspects of life, and therefore all aspects of sexuality – including gender, identity, behavior, and orientation – ought to be submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We believe that God forbids any attempt to change the appearance or identity of one’s biological sex by medical, surgical, non-binary acts, conduct, or by any other means.

Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33, Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:18–32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-19

Angels and Demons: Angels are spirit beings, made by God before the creation of the world. They are personal, powerful and highly organized. The good angels perform God’s will including providing special care for believers. Satan was created holy but fell through pride and evil ambition. Those angels who followed Satan’s rebellion became agents for evil in the world in opposition to God, His work and His people.

Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 148:2,5; Job 38:4-7; Revelation 22:8,9; Psalm 103:20; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17; Matthew 25:41 Acts 5:3; Zechariah 3:1