

## Article Two: Statement of Faith

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### **The Bible**

*2 Timothy 3*

<sup>16</sup> All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We believe that the bible is the Word of God. These three concepts capture its truth:

Inspiration means that the bible is the result of human writers, through their own personalities and styles, recording God's revelation through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Infallibility means that when all the facts are known the bible is true and trustworthy in everything that it affirms.

Authority means that the bible is the expression of God's will to us and possesses the right to define what we are to believe and how we are to conduct ourselves. (2 Tim 3:16-17; Rom. 15:4; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

*How we live it:*

*The bible will be the primary source of our teaching when we gather as a community.*

### **The Nature of God**

*Matthew 28*

<sup>19</sup> therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

We believe that the nature of the one living and true God is a relationship of oneness between three distinct and perfect beings of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:16, Matt 28:19; john 10:30)

*How we live it:*

*For us to fully know God, it's important for our community to understand the nature and role of each distinct being.*

### **God the Father**

*Deuteronomy 32*

<sup>4</sup> He is the rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful

*God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.*

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He is present and active in each of our lives, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17; Psalm 62:5; John 6:44-46)

*How we live it:*

*We seek to better understand our true Father and the personal and restorative relationship we can have with Him.*

### **Jesus Christ**

*John 1*

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in his virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His death on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, continual involvement with His people, and his return to establish his kingdom. (Isa. 7:14; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 1:2,3; John 6:35-40)

*How we live it:*

*The life of Jesus is both vital to our understanding of God and our example of how to live.*

### **The Holy Spirit**

*John 14*

<sup>25</sup> "All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Fa-

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ther and Son to be the active presence of God in our world. To guide each of us in the pursuit of righteousness, the avoidance of sin, and to restore holiness and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. (John 16:7-15; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:13-14)

*How we live it:*

*We seek to be a community who pursues and follows the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.*

### Restoration

*Ephesians 2*

*<sup>4</sup> But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.*

We believe that all people by nature rebel against God and are, therefore, separated from God. We believe that any person, regardless of the past, who repents of sin and trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior is restored to God through the sacrifice of Jesus and then lives in the presence of the Holy Spirit. (John 1:12-13; John 3:3,16,17; Acts 20:21; Titus 3:5)

*How we live it:*

*We want to see people as God does; we want to accept their brokenness as well as the person they were created to be.*

### The Church

*Acts 2*

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

We believe the church is a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all Christ pursuing persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a group of people at different places on the journey to knowing Jesus Christ, gathering for worship, service and community. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of living as Jesus Christ and showing His love to a broken world. (Matt 16:18-19; Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 2:19-22;)

*How we live it:*

*We believe we can better follow Jesus when we do it together, learning from and encouraging each other, and worshipping Him together.*

### Christian Conduct

*Colossians 3*

*<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well being of others; that their conduct should be of such character that it is an influence to the world. That they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should pursue maturity in Christ. (2 Cor. 9:6-8; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil 2:14-16; Col. 3:17)

*How we live it:*

*We will seek to be a community that lives out character and integrity using scripture and the prompting of the Holy Spirit of our guide.*

### Practices of Faith

*Matthew 28*

*<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*1 Corinthians 11*

*<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on*

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*the night He was betrayed, took bread,<sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."<sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two practices of faith to the local church: baptism and communion. We believe that Christian baptism is the baptism of a Christ follower with water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for remembrance of his death. We believe that these two ordinances should be experienced until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 2:41,42; 1 Cor 11:23-32)

*How we live it:*

*These practices can play a powerful role in community to celebrate and remember together the grace of Jesus.*

### Freedom

*1 Corinthians 10*

*<sup>23</sup> "Everything is permissible" - but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible" - but not everything is constructive.*

*Matthew 22*

*<sup>19</sup> "Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup> and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this and whose inscription?" <sup>21</sup> "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."*

We believe that every human being has a direct relationship with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any religious or political authority; that therefore church and state must be kept separate as having different functions with each fulfilling its own duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. (1 Cor 9:19-22)

*How we live it:*

*We strive to be a community committed to realizing the kingdom of God on earth. Because this is our focus, we are not distracted by every political or religious movement either toward or away from God.*

### Church Cooperation

*1 Corinthians 16*

*<sup>1</sup> Now about the collection for God's people: do what I told the Galatians churches to do. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. <sup>3</sup> Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.*

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by operation with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. The church may likewise cooperate with inter-denominational fellowships on a voluntary basis.

*How we live it:*

*As a church we have chosen to be a part of the Baptist General Conference which supports us in our ministry to the Wrigleyville community, and we support it's work in churches around the world. This relationship, and relationships with other similar organizations, allows us to be a part of something further reaching than ourselves.*

### The Kingdom of God

*Matthew 25*

*<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I*

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*was a stranger and you invited me in,<sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’<sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’<sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’<sup>40</sup> “The king will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’<sup>41</sup> “Then He will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’<sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,<sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’<sup>45</sup> “He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’<sup>46</sup> “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom, which will encompass the certainty of God’s goodness overcoming evil, the restoration of all who choose the grace of Jesus into God’s holy presence, and eternity experiencing and living in His kingdom. (John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt 25:31-46)

### *How we live it*

*The kingdom of God is both a future certainty and a present opportunity. It is our desire to live more in God’s kingdom here on earth, while being certain that one day His kingdom will fully come.*