

## **ARTICLE 2—CHURCH RESOLUTION**

Having been led by God's grace, we repent of our sin and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have been baptized into one body and are united together in love (Eph. 4:1-6).

Therefore, we resolve to eagerly love one another, serve one another, and seek to fulfill our role in the body by using our gifts according to the grace given us. (John 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Rom. 12:4-6).

We resolve not to neglect our regular corporate gatherings, to support the worship, ordinances, discipline, and teaching of our church. We further resolve to contribute willingly and faithfully to its spiritual and financial stability and the Church's spread of the gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:16-20; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Heb. 10:25).

Being a member of this local body, we will seek to stir each other up to love and good works; we will seek to put our sin to death not tolerating sin in ourselves or in our fellow brother or sister. Instead we will seek to consider the log in our own eye and warn and admonish our brother or sister of the peril of their own sin with humility as God shall reveal it to us and as the gospel requires; we will extend our hand to the weaker members of the body and seek to build them up in love (Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 8:13, 14:1; Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:24-25).

We also resolve not to reject or disfavor any whom Christ has made his own; if someone has repented and has believed and been baptized and joined with our congregation, we will not show partiality to that person (Mark 9:36-41; James 2:1-7).

We will bear with one another in love and forgive each other, as God has forgiven us (Matt. 6:14-15, 18:21-22; Eph. 4:2-3; Rom. 3:25; 1 Peter 3:8-9).

We will be eager to maintain unity and will seek to build each other up so that we might all attain the resurrection sharing together with each other in our joys and our sadness (1 Cor. 12:18-27, 13:7; Eph. 4:1-16; Phil. 3:10-11; Pro. 27:17).

We will seek to avoid causing or promoting divisions or quarreling among members of the body. (Matt. 5:21-26, 18:15-20; Rom. 14:1-13, 16:17; 1 Cor. 1:10-17, 3:3; Titus 3:9-11) (cf. Section 4.05)

We will deny ourselves and seek to meet the physical needs of other members so that it can be said that 'there are no needy persons among us' and no one is burdened (Acts 4:32-35; 2 Cor. 8:13-15; Gal. 6:2).

We will also seek to care for those who are poor, orphans, widows, and refugees (Lev. 19:34; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; James 1:27).

We will seek to submit ourselves to one another, and we will also seek to obey our leaders who are keeping watch over our souls (Eph. 5:17-21; Heb. 13:17).

In all areas of our lives, we will seek to fulfill our calling as Christians, in the world but not of it and seek to proclaim the gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:16-20; John 17:14-16; Eph. 4:11-14).

We also resolve that if we leave this assembly, we will promptly unite with another church where we may carry out the spirit of this resolution (Heb. 10:24-25).

### **ARTICLE 3—STATEMENT OF FAITH**

#### **SECTION 3.01—BELIEFS**

##### (A) The Scriptures

We believe that all the Scriptures, containing 66 books of the Old and New Testament, are verbally inspired of God, are without error in the original writings, and are the supreme and final authority for faith and life. Interpretation of the Scriptures shall be based on the historical, grammatical, normative use of the language at the time they were written (Jer. 30:2; Prov. 30:5; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

##### (B) God

We believe in one triune God who is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, eternally existent in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1; Matt. 28:19; John 14:16; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:1-4).

##### (C) Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is truly divine and truly man and the only begotten Son of the God. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death and shed blood to pay the penalty for our sins, His bodily resurrection on the third day, His exaltation to God's right hand where he makes intercession for His people, and His personal imminent return (Psalm 2:7; Col. 1:15-20; Acts 1:11; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:4; Heb. 1:3, 7:25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; 1 John 2:1).

##### (D) Humanity

We believe that God originally created all humanity in his own image and likeness, free from sin, but through the temptation of Satan and by voluntary transgression, Adam and Eve fell from their original holiness. We believe all men inherited a corrupt nature wholly opposed to God and are sinners by nature and by choice, and therefore are guilty before God and are under His condemnation (Gen. 1:1-3:24; Rom. 3:23; 5:12, 17; 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:21-22).

##### (E) Salvation

We believe that all who repent of their sins and trust in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit; are therefore children of God and eternally saved, and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, Who enlightens, guides, and enables them in life, testimony, and service (John 1:12; 3:3; Eph. 2:8-9; John 14:16-17, 26).

#### (F) Justification and Sanctification

We believe that justification is God's gracious pardoning of believers' sins and accounting them as righteous. This pardon is not for anything they have done, but because of what Christ alone has done for them. God's wrath has been satisfied by the obedience of Christ, whose righteousness has been imputed to those who by faith receive and rest on him. This faith is not of themselves, it is a gift of God. (John 1:12, Rom. 3:24, 4:5-8, 8:30, 1 Cor. 1:30-31, Eph. 2:8-10, Phil. 3:8-9)

We believe that those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God through his word and his Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints should seek to obtain, pressing toward a heavenly life in joyful obedience to all Christ's commands and putting to death by the Spirit the deeds of the body. (Rom. 5:1-2, 8:13, 2 Cor. 5:21, Eph. 2:8, Titus 3:4-7; 1 Cor. 1:30, 2 Cor. 3:18)

#### (G) Ordinances

We believe that water baptism of believers and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation (1 Cor. 11:23-29; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36-38; Acts 10:47-48).

#### (H) The Church

We believe that a local church of Christ is a tangible and physical manifestation of the body of Christ throughout the ages. Members of the congregation are baptized believers, and gather regularly for worship, observing the ordinances of Christ, being governed by his word, exercising the gifts given them by God, and being equipped to make disciples of all nations. We believe that its only scriptural officers are Pastors (also called Elders or Overseers) and Deacons whose qualifications are defined in 1 Tim. 3:1-13, and Titus 1:5-9 (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Peter 5:1-3).

#### (I) Marriage, Family, and Sexuality

1. We believe that God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore sin (Gen. 1:27; Deut. 22:5)

2. We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman joined together in a lifelong covenantal relationship. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).

3. We believe that husband-wife relationships as stated in Eph. 5:22-6:4, with the husband taking his role as leader and loving his wife as Christ loved the church; and the wife in love voluntarily following the leadership of her husband (Eph. 5:25-33, Titus 2:4-5).

4. We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

(J) The End

We believe in the physical, imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, and a final judgment where every person will give an account. The saved shall enter the everlasting blessedness in glory, and all others shall enter everlasting conscious punishment in hell (Matt. 18:7-9, 25:31-46; Luke 16: 19-31; 1 Cor. 15:1-58).

### **SECTION 3.02—DISTINCTIVES**

(A) Christ, the Head of the Church

We believe that this church is a local assembly of people who, by the illumination of God the Father, confess that Jesus who died, was buried and rose again, is "The Christ, Son of the Living God." Through the person of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Himself is personally and actively involved in building up this local body. The people, property, and programs of our church all belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of this church (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23-24).

(B) Congregational Polity

We believe in a congregational polity served by the diaconate and under the authority of the Pastor(s) who is an undershepherd of Christ. We are autonomous in nature but may freely and willingly associate with other churches of like faith.

(C) The Lord's Supper

We believe in the regular observance of the Lord's Supper with all who know and love Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives and are walking in obedience to God's Word (1 Cor. 11:23-29).

(D) Male Leadership

We believe that the offices of Pastor and Deacon are reserved for qualified men. However, we believe in the encouragement of all members both men and women to serve the local Church body (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9, 2:1-10; 1 Peter 2:4-10).

(E) Spiritual Disciplines

1. Prayer: We believe individual and corporate prayer are essential for the ministries of the church (Matt. 6:5-13; Acts 2:42; James 5:16).

2. Worship: We believe in individual and corporate expressions of worship. Worship is rendering to our Sovereign God the honor that is due to him in spirit and in truth. Our aim in worship is to exalt, honor, and glorify God, resulting in the worshiper responding to God and being conformed to God's will and entering into joyful service (John 4:23-24; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 5:19; Heb. 13:15).

3. The Word of God: We believe in the power of the word of God in the life of the church and will seek to read it aloud in our gatherings, read it in our homes, and teach it to our children (Deut. 6:4-9; Acts 17:11; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 3:16).

4. Evangelism and Missions: We believe in the priority of personal evangelism in the life of every believer. We also believe in local and worldwide missions which seeks to fulfill the great commission making disciples of all nations. This mission is focused on the multiplication of individual congregations, and the equipping of new leadership (Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8).

5. Exercise of Spiritual Gifts: We believe that God has chosen local churches to accomplish His purpose in the world and that God has equipped every believer with spiritual gifts so that he or she has the ability and potential for ministry. We believe that the prophetic, apostolic, and miraculous spiritual gifts, having fulfilled their attesting and verifying role are no longer normative in the church today (Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 1:1-2).

6. Individual Stewardship: We believe in the exercise of willing stewardship by every believer of his or her time, spiritual gifts, finances, and other material sources (1 Cor. 16:1-2; Luke 6:38; Acts 4:32-35; Rom. 12:6; 1 Peter 4:10).

7. Personal Purity and Separation from Sin: We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to purify themselves and not be yoked with unrighteousness, sin, and transgression. We believe that those in Christ ought to love God instead of the world and should seek to be free from pride, greediness, quarreling, strife, sexual immorality,<sup>1</sup> and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations

(Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

(F) The Church Contending and Triumphant

We think of ourselves in earnest conflict with Satan, his hosts, and our own sinful desires, but are confident that under the Lordship of Christ and leadership of the Spirit, the gates of hell cannot prevail against us (Matt. 16:13-20, 18:15-20; Eph. 6:10-17; 1 John 2:16).