

## Statement of Faith

(Draft presented at the Annual Ministers Meeting April 2012)

We Believe:

- In the Triune God. God the Father is all-wise, all knowing, just, holy, and loving. He is above all, and the Creator of all. God the Son, Jesus Christ, left the glories of heaven, lived on earth as a sinless man, died on the cross, and rose again for our justification and sanctification. God the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, indwells the heart of every believer, giving power over sin.

- That Adam and Eve fell into sin through disobedience to God, were banished from the Garden of Eden, and became separated spiritually from God. Man became a mortal being and death entered the world. Man is saved from spiritual and eternal death by believing in Jesus and His finished work on Calvary. True salvation is evidenced and followed by a life of repentance, water baptism, and becoming a member of a local congregation as a part of the greater body of Christ, His Bride. All who believe in Christ look for His soon return to take the Church, His Bride, home for all eternity.

- In the finished inspiration of both the Old and New Testaments, that they are inerrant in their original documents and valid for all times. Jesus is central in the message of scripture. The New Testament supersedes the Old Testament as the charter for believers in this dispensation.

- In a literal, six-day creation that took place approximately 6,000 years ago, and that because of the sinfulness of mankind, God destroyed the earth through a worldwide flood, but saved Noah and his family in the ark.

- That God at creation instituted marriage between one man and one woman, and that marriage is binding until dissolved by death. God established unique roles for man and woman, with man being the head. This order is symbolized by the short hair and uncovered head of men, and the long hair and covered head of women.

- That as a part of the Bride of Christ, we are called to live holy lives guided by a transformed mind, refusing to be shaped by the influences, principles, and practices of the god of this world.

- In two kingdoms: the kingdom of Christ and the church, and the kingdom of this world. Our primary allegiance is to the kingdom of Christ. In matters where we are unable to defer to both kingdoms, we choose loyalty to the kingdom of Christ. This means that we keep ourselves free from political involvement, warfare, and demanding our rights. It also means we practice nonresistance in our daily lives, as taught and demonstrated by Christ and the apostles.