

CONSTITUTION OF SEACOAST COMMUNITY CHURCH

PREAMBLE

As servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we band together to mutually strengthen ourselves for the ministries He has appointed for us and hereby establish the following constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this church shall be Seacoast Community Church.

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(See Appendix 1 for Scripture References to the Statement of Faith)

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

Summary

The purpose of Seacoast Community Church is to *help people discover Life in Christ and learn to follow Him.*

Explanation

In His mercy, grace and wisdom God has gathered into His Church believers in the name of Jesus Christ from all races and nations. This universal assembly is given the assignment of displaying the majesty of the character of God to all creation through the growth of the Body of Christ as it builds itself up in love. "Displaying the majesty of the character of God to all creation" means that we are to structure our lives in a manner that will help convey to all of mankind that the chief and highest end is to glorify God and fully enjoy Him forever (Romans 11:36; I Corinthians 10:31; Psalms 73:24-28; John 17:21,22,26).

Seacoast Community Church covenants, as a community of believers, to pursue the following purposes by His grace and the Spirit's empowering (Ephesians 4:12-16).

Instruction: To use the Scripture, in its entirety, as the sole authority, by which we build individuals to spiritual maturity and train individuals to servant-hood, including evangelization of the world.

Fellowship: To depend upon one another in a loving community characterized by encouragement, accountability, tolerance and service.

Worship: To worship personally and corporately through revering God in a lifestyle characterized by holiness, excellence and balance.

World Missions: To evangelize, disciple and plant churches in the United States and other countries. This includes support activities.

Outreach: To seize opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ and share the message of Christ with people in their sphere of influence.

Prayer: To tap the unlimited power of God by personal and corporate prayer, regularly and fervently, and to act in faith according to His leading.

ARTICLE IV AFFILIATION

This local church is independent and autonomous and free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

Seacoast Community Church shall receive as members those applicants who publicly profess faith in Jesus Christ alone as their personal Savior and Lord and whose lives are evidence of a consistent Biblical Christian walk. All applicants must be in agreement with the church's Statement of Faith, comply with all procedures and meet all prerequisites for admission to membership, as stated in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI FISCAL YEAR AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Fiscal Year

The church's fiscal year shall be June 1 to May 31, or as determined by the Board of Elders.

Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the congregation shall be held in the final quarter of the fiscal year. At this meeting, Elders may be confirmed; an operating budget shall be presented for congregational approval along with any other necessary business as determined by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VII CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Congregation

Operational authority is vested in the Elder Board as selected and affirmed by congregational vote at the annual business meeting. The congregation shall decide upon the calling of the Lead Senior Pastor, confirmation of church Elders, annual operating budget, purchase or sale of church real property and such other matters as the Elder Board shall determine.

Elder Board

Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the congregation, the Elder Board, consisting of such persons as are specified in the Bylaws, shall be the highest authority and shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining the teaching position of the church. It may adopt or put forth written teaching positions of the church regarding matters of doctrine or theology that are not inconsistent with the Statement of Faith in this Constitution. It may review, revise or reverse the decision of any lower board, task force, officers or staff members as it deems appropriate. It shall have authority over any and all areas not specifically assigned to the congregation. It shall have authority to sell donated real and personal property with proceeds deposited as directed by the donor to the General Fund or to special or restricted funds as they exist from time to time.

**ARTICLE VIII
PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Property

The church shall have power to buy, own, and sell real and personal property in its own name. It is understood that individual members of this church have no rights to the church property, and upon termination of membership, they shall be entitled to no interest in the assets.

Consolidation

Should conditions arise where a consolidation is advisable with another church who is in agreement with our Statement of Faith, the Board of Elders is authorized by the church to negotiate the terms of such a consolidation in as far as the property is concerned. A report of such agreement must be made to the church and approval granted by the voting members before any legal papers are signed.

Succession

If a division occurs amongst the Board of Elders of the church, the name and all property shall be retained by those who uphold this Constitution. If all groups uphold this Constitution, all groups agree to the mediation and render of final authority concerning the name and all property to the Evangelical Free Church of America.

Dissolution

If the church ceases to function, and its organization is dissolved, no member shall personally be entitled to any property of the church. All assets of the church, remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities of this church, shall become the property of such association with which this church is in fellowship at the time of the dissolution or to any other non-profit organization(s) as are in agreement with our Statement of Faith and as determined by the Board of Elders remaining active or majority vote of the voting members remaining active if there are not at least two active Elders.

**ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be made at any annual or specially called business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, provided a quorum is present and voting and further provided that notice of such proposed amendments have been presented in written form to the church and/or announced from the pulpit on the previous two successive Sundays at the morning service(s) prior to the time of the vote. Voting shall be by closed ballot. At no time can any amendment be adopted that would be contrary to the Statement of Faith.

**ARTICLE X.
PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The principal office for the transaction of business of the church shall be 1050 Regal Road Encinitas, California 92024 The Elder Board, by appropriate action, shall have authority to change said principal office from one location to another within San Diego County.

SEACOAST COMMUNITY CHURCH

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Conditions of Membership

Each member shall:

1. Have confessed Jesus Christ as his personal Savior (John 3:3-7; I Peter 1:23) and shall have publicly expressed his faith.
2. Have been water baptized as an act of obedience not for the purpose of salvation nor prior to a saving faith.
3. Have been formally and officially recognized by members of the church as being a truly born again believer as evident by their personal declaration and life.
4. Have agreed to be subject to the Statement of Faith, and the Constitution and Bylaws of Seacoast Community Church.
5. Not be under the Biblical discipline of another church.

Section B: Admission to Membership

1. Application shall be to an Elder or Pastor.
2. Evaluation of applicants shall be made by at least two Elders or those appointed by the Board of Elders.
3. The Elders shall introduce approved applicants to the church at which time they shall become members ("Member").

Section C: Termination of Membership

1. A member may withdraw membership by stating such a desire in a letter to the Church.
2. The Board of Elders or those designated shall be responsible for seeing that the membership list is kept current (to include additions, deletions, and designation of inactive).
3. The membership role shall be reviewed quarterly. If a member has not attended services during the preceding two quarters, the member will be deemed inactive ("Inactive Member") for the purposes of voting rights. Continued inactivity will result in the termination of membership.

4. Any member who has been found unworthy of membership at a meeting of the Board of Elders may be dismissed according to the procedures of Article I, Section E of the Bylaws.

Section D: Responsibilities of Members

1. Members are expected to exercise their God-given gifts and function in the Body of Christ (Col. 3:12-17). Members shall actively endeavor to preserve the unity of the church (I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:2-6).

Section E: Discipline and Restoration of Members

1. **Discipline:** Any member, who is found to walk in a way unworthy of a Christian or to teach contrary to the Word of God or the Statement of Faith of this church, shall be lovingly admonished according to the Word of God as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17. If there is no change in attitudes or actions, upon a decision of the Board of Elders, his membership shall be terminated. (I Cor. 5:26).
2. **Restoration:** Members who have been removed from the Seacoast membership roll under Article I, Section E, above, and who desire re-admittance may be restored to their membership by giving satisfactory evidence of repentance and reformation to the Board of Elders. Upon approval of the Board of Elders, their membership shall be restored to the church.

ARTICLE II CHURCH MEETINGS

Section A: Business Meetings

1. Regular church business meetings shall be held as required. Special business meetings may be called by the Board of Elders. All business meetings must be announced by written or electronic communication to all church members as well as announced from the pulpit on two successive Sunday morning services before held. Announcements of special business meetings must specify the purpose for which the meeting is called. An annual meeting of members shall be held during the last quarter of the fiscal year.
2. Chairman of the Board of Elders, or his designee, shall preside at all business meetings.
3. *Robert's Rules of Order* (Latest Edition) shall be the parliamentary manual of this church except wherein they may be contrary to this Constitution and bylaws.
4. **Voting Rights:** Only active members who are eighteen years of age or older may vote. Voting rights are effective immediately upon acceptance into membership. Proxy voting by members or Elders is not permitted. Neither may votes be made by mailed ballot or written communication.

5. **Absentee ballots** shall be available for all issues requiring a vote as long as request is made to the church office at least five (5) days prior to the date of the vote. Absentee ballots must be signed by the voting member.
6. **Quorum:** A quorum shall be required for the transaction of business at all business meetings of the church. A quorum shall consist of twenty five percent (25%) of the voting members of the church for all meetings.
7. **Decisions:** All matters in regular and special business meetings shall be decided by majority vote, unless otherwise specified herein. Confirmation of Elders, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, the calling of a Lead Senior Pastor, approval of proposed annual budget, and other issues determined sensitive by the Board of Elders shall be decided by secret ballot.
8. **Prayer:** In-so-far as practical, prayer shall be a part of every church meeting.

Section B: Services

1. Regular public services of worship and instruction shall be conducted every Sunday. Special public service may be arranged by the Board of Elders or Pastors.

Section C: Communion

1. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once each month. We believe that Lord's Supper is a memorial service setting forth, in a sacred and symbolical manner, the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. The emblems used are not literally the body and blood of Christ, nor do they contain His flesh and blood, but are simply symbols (I Cor. 11:23-30). All born again Christians present shall be invited to partake.

Section D: Baptism

1. The Ordinance of Baptism, the immersion of a believer in water, shall be offered periodically (Matt. 28:19; Act. 2:38). We believe that baptism is the public profession of faith and an outward symbol of an inner reality, salvation by grace through faith. It does not save or bring life, but represents the truth that one who trusts in Christ as Savior: (1) is now identified with Christ, made one with Him in His death, burial and resurrection to new life, (2) is now a new person, free to grow in and follow Christ by the power of His Spirit and (3) is cleansed and forgiven of all their sin.

Section E. Elder Board Meetings

1. Regular Board Meetings: Elder Board meetings shall be scheduled once each month or as deemed necessary by the Elder Board.
2. Special Elder Board Meetings: Special meetings of the Elder Board may be called by the Elder Board Chairman or the Lead Senior Pastor. Special Elder Board meetings may be held by telephone or by internet e-mail.
3. Notice of Board Meetings: Regular Board meetings shall require no special notice.

Special Board meetings shall be announced by notifying or making reasonable efforts, under the circumstances, to notify each Board member.

4. **Quorum and Decisions:** The quorum for all Elder Board meetings shall be more than fifty percent (50%) of the Elder Board. In all decisions unanimity will always be patiently and prayerfully sought, yet when timely leadership requires action, a clear and strong consensus of the Elder Board will serve to lead it with wisdom toward God's will. In the case of removal of an Elder, the Elder being considered for removal shall be excluded from the vote.

ARTICLE III

CHURCH OFFICERS: SELECTION, REMOVAL, QUALIFICATIONS, AND DUTIES

Section A: Officers

1. Lead Senior Pastor is to be called by a congregational vote of 75% or more. He shall work closely on all matters with the Elder Board, and assume any special assignment from them. The Lead Senior Pastor reports to the plurality of the Elder Board.
2. Elder Board Chairman is to be elected from and by the Board of Elders. The Chairman shall preside at all Elder Board meetings, work closely with the Lead Senior Pastor in matters of church business. The Lead Senior Pastor shall not be Elder Board Chairman.
3. Elder Board Secretary is to be selected from and by the Board of Elders. The Secretary, or his designee, shall maintain minutes of congregational business meetings and Elder Board meetings, prepare and distribute church business correspondence as requested by the Elder Board Chairman. The Secretary shall be authorized to sign any legal documents requiring the signature of the Secretary of the Corporation.
4. Board of Elders - There shall be two or more; the number determined by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Section B: Qualifications of Officers

1. **Lead Senior Pastor:**

The Lead Senior Pastor shall be a commissioned, licensed or ordained minister. He shall subscribe to the Seacoast Community Church Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws. In addition, he shall meet the qualifications for eldership as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and he may be a member of the Elder Board.
2. **Elders:**

Spiritually mature male members who are over 21 and have been a member in good standing for 1 year are eligible to serve on the Board of Elders. They must meet the qualifications for eldership as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The Lead Senior Pastor may be eligible for appointment to the Board of Elders upon employment at the discretion of the current Board of Elders.

Section C: Duties of Officers

1. The **Lead Senior Pastor** shall fulfill his divine calling by giving directional leadership to the entire ministry. Joining with the Board of Elders and the rest of the ministry staff, he shall ensure that public worship services are conducted, the Word of God is proclaimed, the ordinances of the New Testament administered and purposes of this church are fulfilled. He shall be available for spiritual guidance to all organizations of the church.
2. The **Board of Elders** is directly responsible to Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, and for providing leadership to the local church as they submit themselves to the authority of the Scriptures. They shall work with the Lead Senior Pastor to promote the spiritual life and health of the church by:
 - Equipping its members so that it may accomplish its purpose (Ephesians 4:11-13).
 - Being an example by leading in the life and ministry of this local church body (Titus 2:7; I. Peter 5:1-3)
 - Function as trustees of the corporation having responsibility for oversight of the church business, and appoint other officers of the corporation as necessary.
3. The **Treasurer** is to be selected by the Board of Elders and may be an elder or member of the Finance Committee.
4. All **Officers** of the church shall be responsible to the Board of Elders.

Section D: Terms of Office

1. An Elder shall serve for an indeterminate term or until the individual no longer meets qualifications of an Elder (see Article III, Section B). Elders will be encouraged to take a one year of leave of absence after three consecutive years of service. On conclusion of a leave of absence, an Elder may resume responsibilities on the Board of Elders if approved by the active Elders and confirmed by the members.

Section E: Discipline of an Officer

1. If anyone has a concern regarding sin in the life of an officer, he shall follow the instructions of Matthew 18:15-17 to resolve the issue as outlined below:
 - If anyone has a concern for the character or ministry of an officer he shall first seek to resolve it personally with the officer. If a satisfactory resolution is not reached the concern shall be taken to the Elders for consideration, and appropriate action if necessary.
 - No accusations will be received against an officer except on the testimony of two or three witnesses (I Timothy 5:19).
 - If the Board of Elders should decide the concern is valid, and that dismissal is in order, the officer's tenure shall terminate.

Section F: Removal of an Officer

1. An officer shall be presumed to have vacated his office if he ceases to be a member in good standing, or if he moves from the community. An officer may also be removed from office for failure to attend, without reasonable causes, three consecutive meetings, or for

conduct impairing his efficiency. If, after being admonished, there is no correction, upon a vote of removal by the Board of Elders he shall be removed from his office.

Section G: Resignation of an Officer

1. An officer may resign his office or request a leave of absence by written request to the Board of Elders.

Section H: Calling a Lead Senior Pastor

1. It shall be duty of the Board of Elders to take the necessary steps to secure a Lead Senior Pastor. The merits of every man under consideration shall be investigated as to his qualifications as an elder and his wholehearted agreement with the Statement of Faith, the Constitution and bylaws of the church. The congregation will be given an opportunity to meet and confer with the candidate and the Board of Elders. After consideration of the congregational response, the Board of Elders will select a Lead Senior Pastor and present him for confirmation to the members.

Section I: Salaries and Benefits

1. Salaries and vacations for the Lead Senior Pastor shall be fixed at the time of employment and may be changed upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE IV STAFF, TEACHERS, MINISTRY LEADERS, VOLUNTEERS

Section A: Staff

1. All church staff shall serve under the leadership of the Lead Senior Pastor.
2. **Pastoral Staff:** Pastors shall qualify for their office according to the standards of 1Timothy 3:1-7. Procedures relating to their selection, terms of employment and termination shall be determined by the Lead Senior Pastor acting under the authority and authorization of the Elder Board. They shall be in full accord with the Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws, and shall become church members as soon as possible after joining the staff.
3. **Non-Pastoral Staff:** In order to accomplish the work of the church, staff may be employed as necessary. Procedures relating to their selection, terms of employment and termination shall be determined by the Lead Senior Pastor acting under the authority and authorization of the Elder Board. The religious beliefs of all applicants may be considered in hiring for any position pertaining to leadership, church ministry, pastoral support, or member care.

Section B: Non-Staff

1. **Teachers and Ministry Leaders** shall be required to complete an application and be evaluated as to their spiritual qualifications by the pastoral staff in charge or by his

appointee for that area of ministry. All ministry leaders and teachers must be members of the church in good standing unless specifically approved by the Board of Elders.

2. **Life Group Leaders** must be members of the church in good standing unless specifically approved by the Board of Elders.

Section C: Youth and Children

1. Staff and volunteers who work with youth and children under the age of 18 shall be required to complete an application and be evaluated by the pastoral staff in charge or by the pastor's appointee for that area of ministry.

Section D: Deacon/Deaconess

1. Deacons or "servant" leaders may be established as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders to assist in caring for the congregation or overseeing ministries of the church. These ministry leaders shall be members of the church and meet the qualifications of deacons as described in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6. Deacons serve under the Board of Elders or their appointee, and may be officers of the corporation.

ARTICLE V AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Section A: Auxiliary Organizations

1. No organization shall use the name of this church in association with its association before its sponsors have submitted their plans to the Board of Elders for sanction and approval and such sanction has been granted.

Section B: Leadership

1. Presidents and/or chairpersons of all auxiliary organizations shall be members of the church.

ARTICLE VI FINANCES

Section A: Church Finances

1. Necessary finances for operating the church, its program and missionary outreach, shall be obtained through voluntary offerings only. Additional faith promises, freewill offerings, and other fund raising activities shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Elders.
2. The yearly church budget shall be approved by voting members. In the event that a new church budget shall not have been approved by the start of the current fiscal year, the previously approved budget shall continue in force until replaced by an approval budget for the current fiscal year.

Section B: Supervision

1. There shall be a Finance Committee appointed by the Board of Elders. They shall have responsibility for the supervision of the church finances subject to the authority of the Board of the Elders. Every conveyance, sale or mortgage of real church property, must be ratified by the voting members. Expenditures not provided for in the budget greater than 5% of the annual budget must be approved by the voting members.

Section C: Audit

1. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for the arrangement of an audit of the church finances. An audit shall be conducted a minimum of once a year and a written report submitted to the Board of Elders.

Section D: Indemnification

1. The church may indemnify a pastor, elder, officer, director or employee under the provisions of the California Corporations Code, or pursuant to any contract entered into with any employee who is not an Officer or Director.
2. Expenses incurred in defending any proceeding may be advanced by the church as authorized in the Corporations Code prior to the final disposition of such proceeding, upon receipt of any undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, elder, officer, director or employee to repay such an amount unless it shall be determined ultimately that the pastor, elder, officer, director or employee is entitled to be indemnified.
3. The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any pastor, elder, director, officer, or employee of the church against any liability asserted against or incurred by the pastor, elder, director, officer, or employee arising out of their status as such, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify the pastor, elder, director, officer, or employee against such liability under provisions of the Corporations Code, save for self-dealing.

APPENDIX 1 – SCRIPTURE REFERENCES TO ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FAITH*

God

We believe in one God (**Dt. 6:4; Mk. 12:29**), Creator of all things (**Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3**), holy (**Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 57:15**), infinitely perfect (**Dt. 32:4; Job 1:7-10; Ps. 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matt. 5:48**), and eternally existing (**Ps. 33:11; 102:25-27; 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Jn. 5:26; Acts 17:24-25**) in a loving unity (**Jn. 3:35; 17:24; 1 Jn. 4:8,16**) of three equally divine Persons (**Jn. 17:11; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2**): the Father (**Dt 32:6; Mt. 6:6; Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 8:6**), the Son (**Matt.3:17; Jn. 1:14; 3:16; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:5**), and the Holy Spirit (**Jn. 14:16,17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9, 26; Gal. 4:6**). Having limitless knowledge (**Ps. 139:1-16; 147:5; Isa. 46:10; Jn. 21:17**) and sovereign power (**Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rm. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:20; Rev. 1:8**), God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself (**1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:11; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8**) and to make all things new (**Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:19-21; Rev. 21,22**) for His own glory (**Ps. 19:1-2; Isa. 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Col. 1:15-23; Rev. 4:11; 5:9,14**).

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures (**Matt. 1:22; 4:4; 19:4, 5; Heb. 1:12**), both Old and New Testaments (**2 Pet 3:15,16**), through the words of human authors (**Lk. 1:1-4**). As the verbally inspired Word of God (**2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20,21**), the Bible is without error in the original writings (**Num. 23:19; 2 Sam. 7:28; Prov. 30:5; Ps. 119:96, 160; Matt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 17:17; Tit. 1:1,2**), the complete revelation of His will for salvation (**Lk. 16:29-31; Gal. 1:8,9; 2 Tim. 3:15**), and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged (**Jn. 17:17; 1 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Ps. 119:44,45,165**). Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches (**Matt. 22:29; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16**), obeyed in all that it requires (**Matt. 28:20; 2 Thess. 3:14; 1 Jn. 2:5**), and trusted in all that it promises (**Rom. 1:2; 4:21; Heb. 10:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; 3:13**).

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image (**Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; Jms. 3:9**), but they sinned when tempted by Satan (**Gen. 3:1-6; Jn. 8:44; Rom. 5:12-14; 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14**). In union with Adam (**Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Jn. 3:6; Rom. 3:12; 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:22a; 1 Jn. 1:8**), human beings are sinners by nature and by choice (**Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Isa. 6:5; Rom. 5:15; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 4:17-19**), alienated from God (**Rom. 5:10**), and under His wrath (**Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 3:9-19; 3:23; Eph. 2:3**). Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ (**Act 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5**) can we be rescued (**1 Thess. 1:10**), reconciled (**Rom. 5:1,2,10; Col. 1:20**) and renewed (**Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2**).

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ (**Matt. 1:21; 16:18**) is God incarnate (**Jn. 1:14,18; 1 Jn. 4:2**), fully God (**Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:6; Jn. 1:1; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9**) and fully man (**Matt. 4:2; Lk. 2:40, 52; Jn. 11:35; Heb. 5:7-8; 1 Jn. 1:1-3**), one Person in two natures (**Jn. 3:13; 10:30; 17:5**). Jesus —Israel's promised Messiah (**Gen. 3:14-20; 12:1-3; 49:8-12; 2 Sam. 7:11b-16; Matt. 1:1, 17; Lk. 4:16-22; 24:25-27; Jn. 1:41; 4:25-26; Acts 2:36; 13:23,32; Rom. 1:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:8,9**) — was conceived through the Holy Spirit (**Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:34,35**) and born of the virgin Mary (**Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:34,35**). He lived a sinless life (**Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4,5; Matt. 3:15; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 4:15**), was crucified under Pontius Pilate (**Dt. 21:23; Ps. 16:10; Matt. 27:26; Mk. 15:15; Lk. 23:16; Jn. 19:16; Acts 2:27, 37**), arose bodily from the dead (**Matt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-8; Lk. 24:39; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:20, 44-45; Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5**), ascended into heaven (**Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:6-11; Eph. 1:20; 4:8-10; 1 Tim. 3:16**) and sits at the right hand of God the Father (**Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Pet. 3:22**) as our High Priest (**Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 6:20; 8:1**) and Advocate (**Rom. 8: 34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Jn. 2:1**).

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative (**Gen. 2:15-17; Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13; Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 1:30; 15:45,47; Phil. 3:9**) and substitute (**Mk. 10:45; Heb. 2:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18**), shed His blood on the cross (**Lev. 17:11; Mt. 26:28; Heb. 9:14, 22; 10:19; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 12:10-11**) as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice (**1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 9:23-24, 26, 28; 10:1; 13:11,12**) for our sins (**Isa. 53:5-7,12; Jn. 1:29; Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Jn. 3:5**). His atoning death (**Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10**) and victorious resurrection (**Col. 1:13; 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15**) constitute the only ground for salvation (**Rom. 4:25; 6:4, 11,14; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:20; 2 Cor. 4:14; Eph. 1:19-20; 2:5-6; 1 Pet. 1:3**).

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ (**Jn. 16:14**). He convicts the world of its guilt (**Jn. 16:8; 1 Cor. 2:14**). He regenerates sinners (**Ezek. 36:25-27; Jn. 3:3, 5; 1 Cor. 12:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13; Tit. 3:5; Jms. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3**), and in Him they are baptized (**Mk. 1:8; Acts 1:5; 1 Cor. 12:13**) into union with Christ (**Rom. 3:24; 5:15-21; 12:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 5:19; 15:22b; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 1:22; 2:17; 3:28; Eph. 1:4; 2:12; 3:6; 4:32; 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Thess. 4:16**) and adopted as heirs (**Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5; Tit. 3:7**) in the family of God (**Matt. 12:49-50; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:14; 1 Jn. 3:14-18**). He also indwells (**Jn. 14:17; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16**), illuminates (**1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4-15; Eph. 1:17-19; Phil. 1:9-11**), guides (**Jn. 16:13; Acts 15:28; Rom. 8:4,14; Gal. 5:16,18**), equips (**Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12: 4-10; Eph. 4: 7-11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**) and empowers (**Acts 1:8; 10:38; Rom. 15:13; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:7**) believers for Christ-like living and service (**Acts 6:8; Rom. 8:4-6, 12-16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 3:3, 5; 5:22-23, 25; Eph. 2:22; 4:3; Phil. 2:1-2**).

The Church

We believe that the true church (**Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:4-6; 5:25; Heb. 12:28**) comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone (**Ps. 103:12; Isa. 44:22; Jn. 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:20-28; 4:3; 5:1, 21; 8:1, 30, 33-34; 10:4, 9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; Tit. 3:7; Heb. 10:14**). They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:12-27**), of which He is the Head (**Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18; 2:19**). The true church is manifest in local churches (**Acts 9:31; 20:28-30; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 16:19; 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; Philem. 1-2**), whose membership should be composed only of believers (**Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:41, 47; 14:23; 20:7; 1 Cor. 1:2, 9; 11:20; 12:13; 14:40; 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:113; 5:9; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25**). The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism (**Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12**) and the Lord's Supper (**Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26**), which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer (**Jn. 6:55-56; Acts 2:38; 8:39; 16:34; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29-30; Col. 2:12**).

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose (**Matt. 7:17-18; 12:33, 35; Heb. 11:6; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23; 2 Thess. 2:13; 5:23; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Jn. 2:29; 3:9; 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Tit. 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 6:11, 14; 1 Pet. 1:15; Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 12:1, 14; Rom. 6; 2 Tim. 1:9; Js. 2:17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11**). God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially (**Dt. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-39; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27**) and to live out our faith with care for one another (**Rom. 12:10; 14:13; 15:7,14; Gal. 5:26; Eph. 4:32; 1 Thess. 3:12; 5:11, 15; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 4:9**), compassion toward the poor (**Dt. 15:11; Psa. 82:3,4; Psa. 140:12; Prov. 14:21,31; 19:17; 22:9,16,22,23; 28:8; 29:7; 31:8,9; Jer. 22:16; Gal. 2:10; Js. 1:27**) and justice for the oppressed (**Ex. 23:6; Lev. 19:15; Psa. 82:3,4; 140:12; Prov. 29:7; 31:9; Isa. 1:17; Jer. 9:24; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 7:9,10; Matt. 23:23; Luke 4:18**). With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name (**Eph. 6:10-18**), we (**Heb. 3:13; 10:25**), are to combat the spiritual forces of evil (**2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11, 12; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Jn. 5:3-4**). In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people (**Matt. 28:19; Jn. 20:21; Rev. 7:9**), always bearing witness to the gospel (**Acts 1:8**) in word and deed (**Matt. 5:13,16**).

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily (**Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7**) and premillennial (**Rev. 20:1-10**) return of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Matt. 25:31; Tit. 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:6-8; Rev. 19:11-21**). The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God (**Matt. 24:36; Mk. 13:32**), requires constant expectancy (**Matt. 24:42-51; Rom. 13:11,14; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Js. 5:8,9; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 3:3**) and, as our blessed hope (**Tit. 2:13**), motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission (**2 Thess. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:8; Tit 2:14; Heb. 9:28; 1 Jn. 3:2-3; 2 Pet 3:10-14**).

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere (**Acts 17:30; 20:20**) to believe the gospel (**Mk. 1:15; Jn. 6:29; 8:24; 11:26; 14:1; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:22; 10:14; Gal. 3:22; 1 Tim. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:8; 1 Jn. 3:23**) by turning to Him in repentance (**Isa. 55:6-7; Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 14:15; 17:30; 20:21; 26:17,18; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:9-10**) and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ (**Jn. 1:12**). We believe that God will raise the dead bodily (**Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:13**) and judge the world (**Ecc. 12:14; Matt. 12:36; 26:31-32; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:12**), assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment (**Matt. 25:46; Lk. 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:11; 21:6,8; 22:14,15**), and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord (**Matt. 25:34, 46; Jn. 14:2; Rev. 21:1-3**), in the new heaven and the new earth (**Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Rom. 8:19-21; Heb. 12:26,27; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1; 22:3**), to the praise of His glorious grace (**Eph. 1:6,12**). Amen.

* This Statement of Faith is consistent with the EFCA Statement of Faith which was adopted by the Conference on June 26, 2008