

# Statement of Beliefs, Policies and Practices

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## Statement of Purpose

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any comparable future United States Revenue Law). The church's purpose includes, but is not limited to, establishing and maintaining religious worship, promoting personal evangelism, developing Christian discipleship, and encouraging Christian fellowship. This will be accomplished by building, maintaining, and operating churches, and any other ministries that the church may be led of God to establish. It is also authorized to license, ordain, and commission individuals to the Gospel ministry.

## Statement of Faith

### ARTICLE I – THE SCRIPTURE

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and conduct.

### ARTICLE II – GOD

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### ARTICLE III – JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man (God-man).

### ARTICLE IV – HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, one with the Father and the Son, the indweller of every believer whereby each is sealed unto the day of the redemption of the body.

### ARTICLE V – DEVIL

We believe in the existence and operating power of a real and personal being opposed to all righteousness and exalting himself against all that God is and has, the evil one called Satan or Devil.

### ARTICLE VI – HELL

We believe in a literal hell, the place of eternal punishment for the wicked dead.

### ARTICLE VII – HEAVEN

We believe in a literal place called heaven where God's immediate presence is manifested, where the angels are, and where the redeemed shall ultimately be, from whence Christ descended and ascended again, where he makes intercession for the saints, and from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

### ARTICLE VIII – MAN

We believe that God created man in his own image and in a state of innocence, but that through temptation man willfully transgressed and became dead in trespasses and sins, whereby his posterity inherits a corrupt nature, being born in sin and under condemnation.



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#### ARTICLE IX – SALVATION

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; that he arose from the dead in his glorified body, ascended into heaven, and as our great High Priest and Advocate he ever lives to make intercession for us; that all who believe in his name are justified on the ground of his shed blood, and receive the gift of eternal life by the grace of God.

#### ARTICLE X – REGENERATION

We believe that regeneration is a divine and instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit whereby God imparts life to one dead in trespasses and sin.

#### ARTICLE XI – SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is a divine and progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby God, upon the ground of the finished work of Christ on the cross, his present intercessory ministry, and his Divine Word, sets the believer apart and works out, in, and through him by means of a submissive will that which is well pleasing to God through Jesus Christ. This work culminates in the redemption of the body.

#### ARTICLE XII – THE CHURCH

We believe in the one true church, the mystical Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus, composed of believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, into which believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the local church is an organization composed of professing believers instituted for the purpose of fellowship, worship, and service. In the matters of administration and policy, it is self-governing.

#### ARTICLE XIII – BAPTISM

We believe that Christian baptism by immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the Bible mode of baptism and testifies of the believer's faith in, and identification with, the crucified, buried, and risen Savior.

#### ARTICLE XIV – THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance whereby believers show forth the Lord's death till he comes.

#### ARTICLE XV – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe in the glorious hope of the pre-millennial, imminent, visible, and bodily return of Christ.

### **Final Authority of Matters of Belief and Conduct**

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Fellowship Greenville's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elders are Fellowship Greenville's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

### **Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in his Image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically and mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death and beyond. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalms 139).

### **Sanctity of Marriage, Family, Gender, Sexuality, and the Church**

Marriage is the original and foundational institution of human society, established by God as a one-flesh, covenant union between a man from birth and a woman from birth that is life-long (until separated by death), exclusive (monogamous and faithful), and generative in nature (designed for bearing and rearing children), and it is to reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church. For a full statement regarding these beliefs, see the attached document.