**GRACE & TRUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

1. ***The Scriptures:*** We believe that the Old and New Testaments are verbally and plenarily inspired by God and are inerrant in the original writings. Through the providence of God the Scriptures have been preserved and transmitted to us in available versions, and are the supreme, final and adequate authority in faith and life. (I Peter 1:13; I Timothy 3:16; John 22:18-19)

2. ***The Trinity*** We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons- the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit-and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience (Matt. 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:4-6)

3. ***God:*** We believe that there is only one true and living God, existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with a distinct personality, but all of one essence, and all having the same nature, perfections, and attributes. Each is worth our confidence and obedience. (I John 5:7; 14 - 15)

4. ***Jesus Christ****:* We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, shed His blood on Calvary as a vicarious substitute, was buried, rose again bodily, and ascended to the Father according to the Scriptures. (Luke)

5.***Holy Spirit:*** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, though omnipresent from all eternity, took up His abode in the world in a special sense on the day of Pentecost according to the divine promise, dwells in every believer and, by His baptism, unites all to Christ in one body and that He, as the indwelling One, is the source of all power and all acceptable worship and service. We believe that He never takes His departure from the church, nor from the feeblest of the saints, but is ever present to testify of Christ. We believe that His abode in the world in this special sense will cease when Christ comes to receive His own at the completion of the church. The Holy Spirit is the Chief agent in the regeneration of the soul, the chief convictor of sin, and the chief comforter, who baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ. He permanently indwells and seals the believer in salvation for all eternity and fills those yielded to Him. (Acts1:8; 1 Cor. 12:13; 1 John 5:7; John 1:6-7; 33; 3:5-6; Ephesians 4:30)

6. ***Creation:*** We believe the Triune God created the universe apart from any pre-existing materials and without any means such as theistic evolution or any form of evolutionary process. (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3)

7. ***Man:*** We believe that man is the direct creation of God... body, soul, and spirit, and is not in any sense the production of evolution, but is made in the image of God. Adam, the first man, sinned by disobedience incurring both physical and spiritual death; consequently, the whole race fell. (Gen. 2:7, 21- 23; Romans 5:12)

8. ***Satan:*** We believe that Satan was originally created a perfect being, but rebelled against God; became depraved, the Devil and adversary of God and His people, leader of a host of angels who fell with him. Satan has been judged and defeated at the Cross and awaits his ultimate doom at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. (Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14:12-15)

9. ***Ordinances:*** We believe that all who have received Christ as Savior and Lord should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; that Baptism, is by immersion in the likeness of death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; and the Lord’s Supper should be observed by the local churches in remembrance of Him to show forth His death for our sins until He comes again. (Acts 22:16; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11)

10. ***The Local Church:*** We believe that the New Testament church is a local body of baptized believers with Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide. The New Testament promotes God’s work by cooperating together for missions and many other joint efforts of the New Testament Church which should be completely independent of outside persons, bodies groups, or authorities. ( Gal. 1:1 - 24; Ephesians 1:15 - 22; Col. 2)

11. ***Salvation:*** We believe that all who in faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again by the Holy Spirit and thus become the Children of God. Salvation involves redemption, regeneration, sanctification, and glorification. The Believer’s Salvation is eternally secure, because it is given wholly by grace... (The Grace of God). (John 3:16; Romans 10:9 - 10; Ephesians 1:1 - 13; Ephesians 2:9 - 10)

12. ***Last Things:*** We believe in the imminent return of the Lord to rapture the church. This event is followed by the seven-year Tribulation Period, the second coming of Christ to the earth to rule for one thousand years, and the Great White Throne Judgment of the Lost. This sequence of events will lead to the conscious state of everlasting punishment for the Unsaved and everlasting blessings for the Saved. (I Thess. 4:16; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 19-22)

13. ***Eternal Security:*** We believe in the Eternal Security of the Believer. (John 5:24; 10: 27 - 29; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30; John 3:16; John 6:36 - 41)

14. ***The Lord’s Day:*** We believe that the Lord’s Day is a Christian Institution for regular observance of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. (Hebrews 10:25; I Cor. 16:2; Phil. 3:3; Acts 29:7)

15. ***Church and State:*** We believe in religious liberty for all men and in the separation of church and state. While God has ordained the existing governmental powers, we also believe that man’s highest authority is the Word of God. Man is, therefore free from any commandments of men that are in conflict with the Word of God. (Galatians 1:11 - 24; Matthew 6:24; Psalm 138:2; Galatians 4:1-5)

16. ***The Priesthood***  We believe in the priesthood of the Believer so that every ***of the Believer:*** Christian has direct access to God in prayer through Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest. We further believe that there is no mediator between God and man other than Christ Jesus. (Galatians 4:14 - 16; I Timothy 2:5-6)

17. ***Marriage & Family:*** We believe that marriage is an ordinance of God; a covenant relationship and a sacred union of **one man** and **one woman** made before God (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6; Mal. 2:14-16). Marriage is a representation of Christ’s relationship to His church. By God’s appointment, the marriage relationship is to continue as long as both parties are living (Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39). Premarital sexual relations or promiscuous sexual practices as well as homosexual and other perversions of the natural order are violations of God’s law and purpose. All should strive to discipline their sexual desires, maintain purity of thought and practice, and avoid situations which lead to sexual temptation (1 Cor. 6:9, 15-20; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 9-11; 1 Cor. 7:8-9; Rom. 1:26-28; Phil. 4:8; Prov. 5; Hebrew 13:4). We also believe that children are a blessing from the Lord. Thus all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 127 & 128; 139:13-16).

***DEFINITIONS:*** *The Church* (as the Body of Christ): It is that spiritual organism of which Christ is the Head, and is composed of all regenerated people from Pentecost to the Rapture. *The Local Assembly:* A group of professing believers in Christ who have been baptized and who have organized themselves for the purpose of doing God’s will.

***COMMANDS TO FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER:*** Hebrews 10:25

***PURPOSE, POLICY, & NECESSITY FOR GIVING :*** II Corinthians 8; Matthew 23:23

***WHY YOU CAN GIVE:*** (If you truly believe the Bible): Matthew 6:25-34