

# STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PRACTICES ARTICLE I - FAITH

# Section 1.

**Concerning the Bible:** The original text of the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and thus infallible, completely reliable, and the only authority in all matters of faith and practice.

# Section 2.

**Concerning God:** There is one true God who is most wise, most holy, most loving and gracious, and most just in His ways; eternally existent in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and entirely sovereign over creation, history, revelation, salvation and final judgment.

### Section 3.

Concerning our Lord Jesus Christ: He is God incarnate, conceived of the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless human life and performed divine miracles; He died as a vicarious, atoning sacrifice by shedding His blood for our sins and to destroy the works of Satan; He was raised bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, continues His mediatorial work, and will personally return in power and glory.

## Section 4.

Concerning the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father to bear witness to the Son; His power is essential for the regeneration of sinners, and His indwelling presence in all believers is vital for their progressive sanctification and witness. At the time a person trusts Christ as Saviour and Lord, he is baptised with the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit continues to dwell in the believer as he matures in his relationship with the Lord. He cultivates Christian



character, comforts believers and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His Church. These gifts are to be exercised humbly and discreetly for the strengthening of the Church and should never be divisive or destructive. All believers are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption.

### Section 5.

**Concerning Man & Salvation:** Created originally in the image of God, man became a fallen, lost and sinful being, who can be redeemed and restored to fellowship with God only by grace through personal faith in Christ, apart from works.

## Section 6.

**Concerning the Church:** Through their union with the Head, all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ are one in His Spirit and belong to His Body, the Church, which is committed to fulfil His Great Commission, by declaring His Gospel, discipling converts in all nations, and discharging its social responsibilities for the common good and for His glory.

# Section 7.

**Concerning the Future:** Christ will return personally for His Church and will receive the Church - both the living and the dead. At His coming in all power and glory, there will be the bodily resurrection of all the dead - of believers to eternal blessedness, and of unbelievers to eternal punishment - and the perfection of the glorious Kingdom of God in a new heaven and new earth.

As reflected in the Articles of Association (23 August 2018).