

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH BOWLING GREEN COVENANT CHURCH**

### **The Triune God**

We believe in one living and true God who is the Creator of heaven and earth; who is eternal, almighty, unchangeable, infinitely powerful, wise, just and holy.

We believe that the one God eternally exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, co-equal and co-eternal, having precisely the same nature and attributes, and worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience.

- Matthew 3:16, 17; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3, 4; II Corinthians 13:14

### **God the Father**

We believe in God the Father, Creator and Sustainer of all things, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; that He sent His Son into the world; that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Genesis 1:1; Psalms 7:9; Matthew 5:48; John 3:16; Acts 13:17-25; Acts 14:15-17; Acts 17:24-28.

### **God the Son (Jesus Christ)**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and lived a sinless, human life. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead on the third day to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

- Luke 1:30-35; 2:7; John 1:1-4; Romans 9-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-19; Hebrews 1:1-3; I Peter 3:18; I Corinthians 15:3-7; Hebrews 7:25; Acts 1:11, 15:14-17; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I John 2:2

## **God the Holy Spirit**

We believe the Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He was sent by the Father upon request of the Son to dwell in us, to encourage and strengthen us, and to lead and guide us into all the truth. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ and to open their hearts to the Gospel. We seek to live under His control daily in obeying all things Christ has taught us. The Holy Spirit gives to every believer spiritual giftings and abilities distributing them as He wills for the building up of the Body of Christ so we might teach others to serve, worship and follow Him.

- Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-14, 16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

## **The Bible**

We believe the Bible is God's Word. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, the Word of God is inerrant in its original autographs and in all that it affirms.

- 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 12:6; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:160; Proverbs 30:5

## **Salvation & Sanctification**

We believe that, due to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again; that salvation is only by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are declared righteous by God and thereby become children of God. We believe the Scriptures teach that regeneration, or the new birth, is that act of God by which the Holy Spirit imparts a new nature and a new spiritual life, not before possessed, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus. The mind is given a holy disposition and a new desire to serve God, the dominion of sin broken, and the heart transformed from a love of sin and self to an increasing love of holiness and God. As the believer walks in the power of the Holy Spirit, these new realities become evident in a life characterized by holiness, compassion and zeal.

- Ephesians 2:1-10; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Hebrews 9:22; John 3:1-18; II Corinthians 5:17; I Peter 1:18, 19.

## **The Church**

We believe the true Church of Jesus Christ had its historical beginning at Pentecost, that it is composed of all true believers in Jesus Christ, is the body and bride of our Lord, and is distinct from Israel. We believe that since there is spiritual unity of all believers in Jesus Christ, it is our duty to love one another fervently, endeavoring at all times to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We believe that the purpose of the church in the world is to glorify God through worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of the ordinances, fellowship, the exercise of our gifts and talents, and the proclamation of the gospel both in our community and throughout the world.

- Acts 2:1, 41-47; Romans 12:5; I Corinthians 12:12, 13; I Corinthians 10:32; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:3-6; Colossians 1:18; Colossians 3:14-15

## **Two Sacraments**

We believe that Jesus Christ has ordained two rites under the New Covenant that identify us with His atoning death, His justifying resurrection, and His heavenly coronation: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Those who trust in Him for salvation are to be immersed in water to signify their new birth and citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven. Each Sunday, every saved believer is invited to celebrate this covenantal meal, partaking of bread that represents His body and wine that represents His blood, while proclaiming His victory over sin and death and His coming triumphant return.

- Matthew 23:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; Colossians 2:11; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Matthew 26:17-29; Luke 22:7-22; Mark 14:12-25; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Galatians 3:26-27

## **Eternity and the Future**

We believe that at the moment of death, believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ and remain there in joyful fellowship with Him until the resurrection of the body at His second coming, after which they will be forever with the Lord in glory. We also believe that at the moment of death, the unsaved descend to Hell where they are kept under punishment until their bodies are raised at the final judgment, after which they will suffer everlasting conscious punishment separated from the presence of the Lord.

- Acts 17:31; Matthew 25:31-46; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Revelation 20:11-15; John 14:1-3; 3:16; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 21:1-5.

## **Biblical Lifestyle**

We, as the body of Christ, stand firmly upon the Scriptural and historical truth claims and moral foundation of biblical Christianity. This includes, but is not limited to, the biblical definition of marriage, the attendant boundaries of sexuality and moral conduct, and the clear biblical teaching that gender is both sacred and established by God's design. Persons who choose to become members of the Church are agreeing to support these and other basic biblical values derived from Scriptural and historical Christianity. These values oppose and prohibit living in, practicing, condoning, or supporting sex outside of marriage, adultery, homosexuality, bi-sexuality, bestiality, incest, gender identity different than the birth sex chromosomal level, pornography, or other sexual immorality.

- Leviticus 20:13a, Romans 1:27, Matthew 19:4-6.

## **Marriage**

We believe that every person is created in the image of God, and that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, fellowship, and subordination of the self. God's Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people. Therefore, God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship that is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a union made in the sight of God. The Church believes that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

- Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18, 20, 23-24; Isa. 54:4-8; 62:5b; Jer. 3:14; Ezek. 16; Hosea 2; Mal. 2:14; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:9; Eph. 5:23-32; Heb. 13:4; and Rev. 19:7-8).

## **Gender**

The Church believes that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. A person's rejection of his or her biological sex is a rejection of the image of God as reflected in the person.

- Gen 1:26-27.

## **Sanctity of Human Life**

The Church believes 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 or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. The Church is therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life, beginning at conception.

- Ps 139.