



STATEMENT OF FAITH

adopted on August 2014

INTRODUCTION

Seven Mile Road is committed to a high view of Scripture as the inspired Word of God which alone stands as the final authority for our faith and our practice. Working from there, our hope is that our theology would always reflect a humble orthodoxy as we pursue God's truth together.

CREEDS

In solidarity with the saints that have gone before us, we happily confess with the universal Church the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

GOD

We believe there is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth and love. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three distinct Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal, co-eternal, each truly Deity. One God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is the foundation of Christian faith and life.

We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth. By His word and for His glory, He freely and supernaturally created the world out of nothing. Through the same word, He daily sustains all His creatures. He rules over all and is, together with the Son and the Spirit, the only Sovereign. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love Him and, in His unfathomable grace, gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for our redemption. He made all things for the praise of His glory and intends for man to live in fellowship with Himself.

We believe that Jesus the Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the eternal Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary in the village of Bethlehem. He is perfect in nature, teaching and obedience. He is fully God and fully man. He was always with God and is God. Through Him all things came into being and were created. He was before all things, and in Him all things hold together by the word of His power. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation, and in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world, having shed His blood and died a vicarious death on Calvary's cross. By His death in our place for our sins, He revealed divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, on the third day, He rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness and, for a period of 40 days, appeared to over 500 witnesses, demonstrating many convincing proofs

of His resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over heaven and earth, awaiting His return. He is the Head of His body, the Church, and should be worshipped, loved, served and obeyed by all.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel, He compels men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit, a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit brings about the new birth, unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son Who, in turn, came to glorify the Father. He will lead the church into a right understanding and application of the truth of God's Word. He is to be respected, honored and worshipped as God.

REVELATION

We believe that God has chosen to reveal himself to man through his word. This written word allows man to know God on God's own terms. We need not speculate at who God is or how God intends to be known because he has authoritatively revealed himself and his promises in the holy scriptures. Scripture is the Word of God written by human authors. We accept the Canon consisting of the 66 books of the Bible. Formation of the canon is complete and is validated by the work of the Holy Spirit in its formation, preservation and in its working in the lives of believers today. Scripture is truthful in all that it says, to the degree that it calls for, in the original manuscripts. Diversity in literary style, culture, or genre do not detract from the truthfulness of the text.

MAN

We believe that the Triune God created man in His own image, at the height of creation, intending for man to bring him glory by enjoying communion with Him and serving well as a steward of His good world.

We believe that both men and women are together created in the divine image and are therefore equal before God as persons – possessing the same moral dignity and value – and have equal access to God through faith in Christ. By creating us equal but distinct as male and female, by naming our race “man,” and by establishing a creation order before the Fall and calling it “very good,” God has established a perpetual duality in human sexuality, assigning to men authority (headship) which they are to bear in holiness and love in the home and in the church (which is the household of God).

We believe that our father Adam rebelled against God and His word in the garden, bringing Himself and all of us under divine judgment. The effects of this sin have moved downstream from our first parents and are inherited by every member of the human race, resulting in the relational, physical, and emotional pain and difficulty now part of the human experience. The sinful nature of humanity inherited from Adam leaves all people under the pending and just judgment of God. Man is sinful by nature and choice, and, without a sovereignly gracious work of the Spirit, wholly incapable of returning to God. Regardless of our moral achievements, we are ultimately lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ.

GOSPEL

We believe that with his bloody death on the Cross, Christ bore the weight of and atoned for the sins of all of God’s people, satisfying the wrath of God, and that through faith in Jesus and all that he has done in his atoning work, the saints now stand righteous and innocent before God, victorious over death, unstained by sin, redeemed from bondage to sin, and reconciled to the Triune God. Jesus’ atoning work reveals the seriousness of sin, as well as the pleasure of God in saving his elect.

We believe that, in accordance with the will of God, the Spirit brings about new life in the spiritually dead, making sinners into saints. He who was once radically opposed to God turns toward God and becomes receptive to and accepting of the Gospel of Christ. Man does not initiate this process, though regeneration does alter man's actions going forward. This regenerative work is necessary to genuine faith. Through faith in Christ and reliance upon Christ's atoning work on the Cross, the sinner is declared righteous before God. Jesus' righteousness becomes their own. Just as he bore the sins of the elect on the Cross, the regenerated sinner bears Christ's righteousness before God and is, therefore, viewed as righteous and holy. True regeneration begins an inevitable process of growth in holiness and fruitfulness through the empowering work of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that justification triggers the process of sanctification, by which the actions and affections of the believer are changed. Complete sanctification does not occur in this life. The Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian witness and service. The promise of the Father is freely available to all who believe in Jesus Christ, thereby enabling them to exercise the powers of the age to come in ministry and mission. The Holy Spirit desires to continually fill each believer with power to witness and imparts His supernatural gifts for the edification of the body and the advance of the gospel in the world.

CHURCH

God, by His Word and Spirit, creates the Church, and, by the same Word and Spirit, guides and preserves her. The Church is not a religious institution or denomination, but is made up of those who have received grace from God and become genuine followers of Jesus Christ by believing the gospel and receiving the Spirit. The Church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to serve Him by faithfully doing His will on earth. This involves a commitment to the means of grace: prayer, faithful preaching of the word, faithful administering of the sacraments, and faithful discipline of the saints. God has chosen to accomplish his redemptive purposes through the Church.

WORLD WITHOUT END

We believe in the future, physical, visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus the Christ to judge the living and the dead. The great hope of the church is that Christ will one day return to the earth to resurrect all who have faith in Him, the dead first and the living second. This will begin the consummation of his already inaugurated Kingdom. Sin will be judged and death will be extinguished as the final blow is dealt to Satan and all who stand opposed to the reign of Christ will be judged eternally. The date of this coming is known by God alone. All will be made right at Jesus' coming.