

Articles of Faith



Each and every person in order to become or serve as Senior Pastor, a member of the Pastoral Team, a deacon, trustee, teacher, or leader of a ministry in the Passaic County Christian Center shall subscribe to the following Articles of Faith and Doctrines:

THE SCRIPTURES:

We believe the Holy Bible is the very Word of God, that it is in the 66 books the full, final and complete revelation of God's will to man. We believe the author of the Bible is God the Holy Spirit and by inspiration we mean the plenary (meaning complete in all respects) verbal inspiration, that Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:19-21.)

GOD:

We believe that there is one and only one true, living God. He is absolute in nature, perfect in attributions, holy in character, & is revealed in the Trinity which is the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 6:3; Romans 11:33; 1 Peter 1:2-3; 1 John 5:7)

JESUS:

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (Acts 4:10-12; John 10:30-33; Philippians 2:5-6; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 9:6; John 20:27-28)

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. The Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature. He is the agent of the New Birth and indwells, comforts, seals, guides and directs the believer. He is also the Church. He gives members the gifts that they need, and places them in the local church. (John 14:16-17, 26, 15:26-27; Romans 8:16, 26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ and to indwell, guide and empower believers for life and service. This baptism brings the gifts or enabling of the Holy Spirit and their uses to the forefront of the ministry of the Body of Christ. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth and is the most common evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5-8; Acts 2:1-4)

THE CHURCH:

We believe that all who repent of their sins and place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united body, the Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head, and which is His bride. We believe that the members of this one spiritual body are directed to associate themselves together in a local assembly, called the congregation and referred to as "the church". (Ephesians 1:22, 3:21; Acts 2:47, 8:1, 11:22, 16:5; 1 Timothy 3:15; Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:24)

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THE VIRGIN BIRTH:

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of the virgin Mary as no other man was born or can be born of woman. Since sin nature is within the seed of man, it was necessary that He was born of a virgin. Mary was not sinless. Jesus is both the Son of God & God the Son. (Luke 1:35, Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25, John 1:14, Mark 1:1)

THE DEVIL:

We believe that the Devil is an actual being & not an imaginary influence; that he once enjoyed high heavenly honors & glorious heavenly privileges; that he through pride, ambition & self will betrayed God & as a result brought down upon his head the judgment of God. He operates today as the god of this world & the Prince of the Power of the air; that he is the arch deceiver, & father of all lies, that he is the greatest enemy, the biggest tempter & the greatest opposition to the saints. His final abode shall be the Lake of Fire, which is the eternal place of punishment, prepared for the Devil & his angels. (Isaiah 14:12-15; John 8:43-44; Jude 6; 1 John 3:8; Ezequiel 28:14-17; 1 Peter 5:8)

THE FALL OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in innocence & holiness & by voluntary transgression of the Lord's command, fell from the state in which he was created & as a consequence became a sinner alienated from God & brought upon himself & all mankind just condemnation. Man is now, by virtue of his fallen nature, void of holiness, positively inclined to evil & actually condemned to eternal ruin without excuse. (Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 1:18, 28, 5:12, 19; Ephesians 2:1-3)

REPENTANCE & FAITH:

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn and inseparable prerequisites of salvation; that they are inseparable graces wrought in the heart by the quickening of the Holy Spirit; that the sinner, being deeply convicted of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come by the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit, and by Him having his understanding enlightened so that he can see the way of salvation through Christ. (Ephesians 2:8; John 6:44; Acts 9:6; Romans 10:10)

WATER BAPTISM:

We believe that Baptism is an ordinance personally set in the church of the living God by the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that Baptism symbolizes the death and the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that it also typifies the believer's death to sin, the burial of his old nature, and his resurrection unto a new life; and that it is administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Water Baptism serves as a public proclamation of your faith in Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38; Matthew 28:18-20)

THE LORD'S SUPPER:

We believe the Lord's Supper symbolizes the broken body and the shed blood of the Son of God; that its observance points to the crucified Lord on Calvary and forward to the returning Lord in glory. We believe that these ordinances are not sacraments, but are sacred symbols, pointing to the world's only Savior, and calling all men and women to look unto an everlasting fellowship with the King of kings and Lord of lords when He shall return to rule the earth. (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 21; 11:20-34)

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SANCTIFICATION:

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work, begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in continual use of the appointed means: especially, the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer. (Leviticus 20:7-8; John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

HOLINESS:

We believe that all members of the Body of Christ should be holy; that is, separated from sin and consecrated for the service of the Lord. For this reason they must abstain from all practices, entertainment, and filthiness of flesh and spirit (Leviticus 19:2; II Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:21; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:16). However, in the practice of holiness we believe that we must avoid all extremes, asceticism and deprivations with reputation of wisdom in self-imposed worship and humility, and unsparing severity of the body, all which are but a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ (Colossians 2:17, 23). Regarding food, we note that "every creature of God is good and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving" (1 Timothy 4:4).

RESURRECTION:

We believe that our Lord arose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, and in the same body, though glorified, in which He had lived and died, and that His resurrection body is the pattern of that body which, at the return of Christ, will be given to all resurrected believers. (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:20; Acts 2:32; I Corinthians 15:23, 42-45; Philippians. 3:20, 21)

THE GREAT COMMISSION:

We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

LIFE:

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth, or population control, or the mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18, Luke 1:44)

MARRIAGE:

We believe that God intends marriage to be a life-long covenant between a man and a woman. However, divorce is a reality of our times brought about by the fallen nature of mankind. Remarried or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service. (Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

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KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP:

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is blessed to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR:

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE MILLENNIUM:

We believe that the Church, composed of the dead in Christ and the faithful living on earth at the time of the Rapture, will be lifted up to meet the Lord in the air and to take part in the wedding feast of the Lamb of God. Thereafter, the Church will descend with the Lord to earth to pass judgment upon the nations and reign with Christ for a thousand years. This period will be preceded by the Great Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon, which the Lord will end upon descending on the Mount of Olives with all His saints (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Philippians 3:20-21; Isaiah 65:17-25; Daniel 7:27; Micah 4:1-3; Zechariah 14.1-16; Matthew 5:5; Romans 11:25-27; Revelation 20:1-5).

THE FINAL JUDEMENT:

We believe the Lord has prepared a judgment day in which all men who have died without Christ and those living upon the earth at the time of its verification will participate. This judgment, also known as the "Judgment of the Great White Throne," will take place at the end of the Millennium. The Church will not be judged on this occasion, but will itself intervene in the judgment rendered to all men in accordance with the things written in the books that God has prepared. At the end of this judgment, the present heavens and the earth will be renewed by fire and the faithful will dwell in the New Jerusalem. The Christian dispensation will have come to its end and God will be all things in all (Daniel 7:8-10, 14, 18; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Romans 2:16, 14:10; 1 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:5-15, 21:1-6).

DIVINE HEALING:

We believe that God has the power to heal all our physical illnesses, if that is His will, and that divine healing is a result of the sacrifice of Christ, for He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4). The healing of the body takes place through a combination of the faith of the believer and power in the Name of Jesus Christ, whose Name is invoked when praying for the sick. The Lord Jesus Christ promised that those who believed in His Name would lay hands on the sick and the sick would recover (Mark 16:18). The sick shall be anointed with oil in the Name of Jesus Christ by ordained ministers for the Lord to fulfill His promises (John 14:13; Psalm 103:1-4; Luke 9:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14-16). We believe that divine healing is obtained through faith. If, on occasion, a brother needs to submit himself to the care and ministrations of medical science, he should not be criticized by his fellow church members, who must weigh the matter and consider themselves lest they be condemned by what they themselves approve (Romans 14:22)

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THE FIVE FOLD MINISTRY:

We believe that the local church operates under the five-fold ministry. These offices are identified in Scripture as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. We believe God is restoring, the biblical form of government and administration in His church today. The purpose of the five-fold ministry is, "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)

ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that Christ is the head of the local church. There is no human head of the church. The Bible is the only written creed for the local church, rather than a man-made written creed. The local church is autonomous and self-governing. There is to be no outside interference from others. The church is to be lead by an organizational body of a Pastoral Team and 1 Senior Pastor. The Pastoral Team and Senior Pastor are recognized as servants, shepherds and/or teachers within the church fellowship. The Pastoral Team is responsible before God to lead the church in matters regarding spiritual care, doctrine, teaching, vision and direction. (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:17; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5 1-3)

The Statement of Faith and Doctrines does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith and Doctrine accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members of the Passaic County Christian Center. The knowledge and belief of the truth as stated in our Articles of Faith & Doctrine, we deem necessary to sound doctrine.