

UNION CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

PREAMBLE

“Union Church exists to understand, experience, and enjoy the glory of God, passionately proclaiming Him to the ends of the earth.”

Ps. 19:1; Hab. 2:14; Mt. 22:37; Jn. 1:14; Rom. 2:12; Phil 2:5; Col. 1:27; Heb. 1:3; Ex. 33:18; Ps. 24:7-8; Isa 58:8; Rom. 8:1, 15-16; 2 Cor 3:18; 5:21; 1 Pt 2:3; 2 Pt 1:3-4; Ps. 16:5-11, 34:8; 37:4; 97:1-9; 144:15; Isa. 12:2; Neh. 8:10; Lk. 2:10; Jn 4:42; Rom. 5:2; Phil. 4:4; Rev. 21:3-4; Gen. 12:1-3; 1 Chron. 16:24; Ps. 96:3; Mt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-14

THE SCRIPTURES

WE BELIEVE that God has spoken to us in the Scriptures, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. These books were written as God spoke through human authors. They are verbally inspired and inerrant in their original writings and serve as our only rule for faith and practice. Therefore, the Scriptures are to be believed in all they teach, obeyed in all it requires, and trusted in all it promises.

Ex. 4:12-16; 20:1; Num 22:38; Jer 1:9; Jn 16:12-15; Acts 4:25; 1 Cor. 2:13; 1 Pt 1:20-21; Ps. 12:6; 1 Tim. 3:16-17; Jn 10:35; Acts 24:14; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Acts 24:14; Eccl. 12:13; Jn 16:33; Ps 32:8; Rom 8:28; 2 Pt. 1:4

GOD THE FATHER

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of things visible and invisible for His own glory. God is spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Dt 6:4; Mk 12:29; Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Jn 1:3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 11:3; Jn 4:24; Ps 90:2; Mal 3:6; Jam 1:17; 1 Kgs 8:27; Jer 23:24; Isa 40:22; Ps. 147:5; Rom 16:27; Gen 17:1; Rev 19:16; Isa 57:15; Jn 17:11; Rev 4:8; Dt 32:4; Ps 100:5; Rom 2:4; Ex. 34:6; Ps 117:2

GOD THE SON

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is the only son of God, co-eternal with the Father sharing the same divine essence as God the Father—true God from true God. Through Him all things were made for us and for our salvation.

WE BELIEVE Jesus came down from heaven; He became incarnate and was made human being both fully God and fully human—one person with two natures. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, He lived a perfect life and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried. On the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will never end.

Jn 3:16; Heb 1:6; Mt 14:33; Rev 1:8; Isa 44:6; Jn 10:30; 20:28; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:9; 1 Jn 5:20; Jn 1:1-3, 10, 14; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:15-17; Jn 6:38; Mt 1:18; Rom. 1:3; Phil 2:6-7; Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:6; Jn. 1:1; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; Matt. 4:2; Lk. 2:40, 52; Jn. 11:35; Heb. 5:7-8; 1 Jn. 1:1-3; Jn. 3:13; 10:30; 17:5; Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:34,35; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:34,35; Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4,5; Matt. 3:15; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 4:15; Acts 2:36, Matthew 27:2,26, Mark 15:15; Mt 16:21; Mark 15:46; Luke 24:5-7, I Corinthians 15:3-4; John 20:17, I Timothy 3:16, I Peter 3:21-22, Acts 1:9; Lk 22:69; Acts 1:10,11, Revelation 1:7, John 5:22, Acts 10:42; 2 Samuel 7:13; Luke 1:33

GOD THE SPIRIT

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life. The Holy Spirit is fully God and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. The Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ in all he does. He convicts the world of its guilt, regenerates sinners, and in the Spirit one is baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs into the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

Jn. 3:5, 14:17; Acts 5:3,4; 2 Cor. 3:17; Titus 3:5; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Heb. 9:14; Jn. 16:14; Jn. 16:8; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eze. 36:25-27; Jn. 3:3; 1 Cor. 12:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13; Titus 3:5; Jam. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3; Mk. 1:8; Acts 1:5; Rom. 3:24; 5:15-21; 12:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:19; 12:13, 15:22b; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 1:22; 2:17; 3:28; Eph. 1:4; 2:12; 3:6; 4:32; 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Thess. 4:16; Mt. 12:49-50; Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; 2 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5, 3:14; Tit. 3:7; 1 Jn. 3:14-18; Jn. 14:17; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4-15; Eph. 1:17-19; Phil. 1:9-11; Jn. 16:13; Acts 15:28; Rom. 8:4, 14; Gal. 5:16, 18; Acts 1:8, 6:8; 10:38; Rom. 8:4-6, 12-16, 12:4-8, 15:13; 1 Cor. 12: 4-11; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 3:3, 5; 5:22-23, 25; Eph. 2:22, 3:16. 4:3, 7-11; Phil. 2:1-2; 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11;

THE TRINITY

WE BELIEVE that God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—exists as one being in three persons, each person fully God. A recognition of the Trinity is required by the testimony of the Scriptures and essential to Christian living and a proper relationship with God.

Dt 6:4; Zech. 14:9; Mk 12:29; 1 Tm 2:5; James 2:19; Mt. 3:16-17 ;28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Isa. 9:6, 64:8; Jn. 1:1, 8:58; 10:30, 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; 8:6; Eph. 4:6; Col. 2:9; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pt. 1:3; Titus 2:13; 2 Pt 1:1; Rev. 1:17; Jn 3:5,16, 17:3; Gal. 4:4-6; Rom. 8:29; 2 Pt. 1:4

HUMANITY

WE BELIEVE that God created Adam and Eve in his image, without sin, and with a divine purpose. This image was distorted, though not destroyed, when Adam sinned. In union with Adam, humanity is sinful by nature and by choice, alienated from God and under God's wrath.

Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; Jam. 3:9; Gen. 2:15, 19-20; Ps 139:14; Eph. 2:10; Genesis 9:5-6; Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:12; 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:22a; 1 Jn. 1:8; Gen. 6:5; Isa. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 5:15; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 4:17-19; Rom. 5:10; Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 3:9-19; 23; Eph. 2:3

SALVATION

WE BELIEVE that only the historic death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can provide reconciliation and renewal for fallen humanity. When Jesus died on the cross, he acted as our representative and our substitute, paying the penalty for sin, the penalty we deserve, allowing us to be declared not guilty. Through Jesus's resurrection, we are secure in eternal life and live with such hope. Jesus's atoning work allows us to be united to Christ and to each other. This hope is made available solely by the grace of God to all who respond to God with faith and repentance.

Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 1:7, 2:16; 1 Tim. 2:5; Gen. 2:15-17; Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13; Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 1:30; 15:45, 47; Phil. 3:9; Mk. 10:45; Heb. 2:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:24, 3:18; 1 Cor. 6:20, 7:23; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pt 1:18-19, 2:24; Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Jam. 1:15; Ps. 32:1-2; Isa. 53:11; Rom. 3:20; 1 Cor. 6:11; Jn 6:37,39, 10:28-29, 17:11-12; Rom. 8:30, 8:38-39; Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 1:12, 2:13, 4:18; 1 Jn 5:13; Rom. 15:13; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:27; Eph. 1:18; Heb. 10:23; 1 Pt. 1:13; Jn. 15:5; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:17, 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:6, 10; Col. 2:20; Jn 13:35; Acts 4:32; 1 Cor. 1:10; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 2:2; Col. 3:13-14; Jn 1:16; Rom. 3:20-24, 11:6; Eph 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:11-12; Jn 3:16, 5:24; Rom. 1:16-17, 4:3, 5:1; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 16:31; Heb. 9:22

THE CHURCH

WE BELIEVE that the church is comprised of and designed for all who have been made new by the saving work of Christ. We are united by the Holy Spirit into one body of which Christ is the head. As a member of this body, we are to serve the body with our gifts, grow in the likeness of Christ with one another, be subject to the authority of our appointed leaders, and to be reconciled to one another. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We practice baptism by immersion, symbolizing the death and resurrection of Christ, for the believer as a public proclamation of one's faith in Christ and commitment to a local body of believers. We practice the Lord's Supper as a memorial, pointing us to remember, appreciate, and apply the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. These are not means of salvation, but these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Ps. 103:12; Isa. 44:22; Jn. 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:20-28; 4:3; 5:1, 21; 8:1, 30, 33-34; 10:4, 9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; Tit. 3:7; Heb. 10:14; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18; 2:19; Gen. 14:19-20; Lev. 27:30; Prov. 3:9; Mk 12:41-44; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:8-10; 1 Peter 4:11; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 11:1-2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph 4:15; Col. 1:16; 2 Pt. 3:18; Ex. 18:21; Prov. 11:14; 1 Cor. 1:10; Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 3:2, 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:12; Mt. 5:24; 2 Cor. 5:18-19; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; Mt. 26:26-

29, 28:18-20; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Col. 2:12; Mt. 3:13-17; Jn. 3:23; Acts 8:36-38; Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:12-13; Acts 2:38; Acts 16:14-15; 2 Pt 3:21; Mt. 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25; Gen. 15:6; Jn 5:24; Rom. 5:1; Gal 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Jn. 6:55-56; Acts 2:38; 8:39; 16:34; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29-30; Col. 2:12

CHRISTIAN LIVING

WE BELIEVE that the purpose of God's saving grace is so that we may be able to be united with and conformed to Jesus Christ. This means learning to imitate God in His love and compassion for others as one is filled with the Holy Spirit, separated from sin, and empowered for holy living. This holy living—sanctification—is not the means by which we are saved but the joyful response to the glorious work God has done in our lives. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people,

2 Pt. 1:4; Eph 1:4-5, 2:5-6, 10, 3:17, 5:31-32; Gal 2:20, 3:26, 4:19; Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3, 5 1 Cor. 1:2, 9, 30, 6:15, 12:27; 2 Cor. 5:17, 13:5; Phil 3:8-9; Rom. 8:1, 28-30; 1 Cor. 4:16, 11:1; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Pt. 2:21; 1 Jn 2:6; Phil. 3:17; 1 Thess. 1:6; Jn 13:34; Heb 6:12; Jn 13:15; Lk 6:40; Mt. 16:24; Heb. 13:7-8; Mt 11:28-30; Lk 7:13; Mt. 3:11; Acts 1:8, 4:31, 9:17, 13:52; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 4:30, 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:23; Jn 17:17; Rom. 6:1-23; Gal. 2:20; 2 Tim. 2:21; 1 Thess. 4:3; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Pt. 1:2-4; Eze. 36:27; Lk 24:49; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 3:16-17, 4:12; Gen. 15:6; Jn 5:24; Rom. 5:1; Gal 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:1, 12:1; 1 Cor. 4:16; Gal. 6:10; Eph 4:25; Phil. 2:12; Col. 3:12; Gen. 12:1-3; Isa 6:8; Mt 28:18; Jn 15:16; Rom. 10:10-17; 1 Pt. 3:15; Rom. 10:14-15

ETERNAL DESTINY

WE BELIEVE that Christ will return personally, visibly, and bodily at a time known only to God. Christ will return to right every wrong, establish his throne forever, and judge the living and the dead. He will assign the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal joy with the Lord in the new heaven and new earth.

Mt. 24:30, 25:31, 26:64; Acts 1:11; 2 Thess. 1:6-8; Tit. 2:13; Rev. 1:7, 19:11-21; Mt. 24:36; Mk. 13:32; Ps. 110:1; Mt. 9:36; Lk. 20:43; Col. 3:25; 1 Pt. 2:8-10; Rev. 21:4; 2 Sam. 7; Ecc. 12:14; Mt. 12:36; 26:31-32; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:12; Mt. 25:46; Lk. 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:11; 21:6,8; 22:14,15; Mt. 25:34, 46; Jn. 14:2; Rev. 21:1-3; Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Rom. 8:19-21; Heb. 12:26,27; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1; 22:3