

The Vineyard USA

THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENTS

Forward

This document was originally published in 1995 after approximately ten years of work. We were aware of a need for a Statement of Faith shortly after the beginning of the Vineyard movement in 1983. On one hand, we felt obliged to set forth our biblical and historically orthodox beliefs; on the other hand, we wanted to describe the values and priorities that make the Vineyard unique within the context of Evangelicalism.

John Wimber, our “founding father”, laid the foundation for this work. As he walked out the calling and vision the Lord had placed upon and in him, the Vineyard movement emerged and matured. John McClure, senior pastor of Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Newport Beach, California shepherded the framing and editing process over the first ten years. Dr. Don Williams, senior pastor of Coast Vineyard in La Jolla, California rewrote the original statements into the cogent, biblical kingdom framework that follows.

As evangelicals, the Bible is our final authority for faith and practice. Therefore, the statements that follow reflect our best attempt to understand and live out biblical precepts. This 2001 revision contains minor improvements to format only. The content of our statements remains unchanged from that originally approved by the The Vineyard USA Board of Directors in November 1994. Upon further reflection, greater biblical insight, or increased wisdom through experience, these statements could be further revised.

We commend these statements for use by all our pastors in all our churches with the prayer that God will bless our sincere desire and humble attempt to be ambassadors of the rule and reign of His Kingdom through our lives, that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.



Bertin A. Waggoner
National Director
Sugar Land, Texas
November, 2004

For permission to reprint this document in its entirety,
please contact the The Vineyard USA, PO Box 2089,
Stafford, TX 77497-2089.

Cover design by Kent Larson, Seed Art Productions

The Vineyard USA

THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENTS

Table of Contents

I. Our Mission	1
II. Our Purposes	1
III. Our Statement of Faith	
A. God the King and the Holy Trinity.....	2
B. God the King: The Creator and Ruler of All Thing.....	4
C. Counterfeit Kingdom: Satan and Demonic Hosts.....	5
D. The Kingdom in Creation, The Fall & The Doctrine of Original Sin.....	6
E. God's Providence, Kingdom Law and Covenants.....	7
F. Christ the Mediator and Eternal King.....	11
G. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit.....	14
H. The Sufficiency of Scripture.....	16
I. The Power of the Gospel over the Kingdom of Darkness.....	17
J. The Church: The Instrument of the Kingdom.....	19
K. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.....	19
L. The Kingdom of God and the Final Judgment.....	20
IV. Our Values	22
V. Our Priorities	
A. Worship.....	24
B. The Word.....	24
C. Fellowship.....	25
D. Ministry.....	25
E. Training.....	26
F. Sending.....	27

VI. The Practices We Aim to Instill	
A. Prayer Skills.....	27
B. Marriage and Family Skills.....	27
C. General Ministry Skills.....	28
VII. Our Leadership Personnel Requirements.....	30

The Vineyard USA

THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENTS

Revised November 2004

I. OUR MISSION

The Mission of The Vineyard USA is to participate in the advancement of the Kingdom of God through the work of local Vineyard churches that communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

II. OUR PURPOSES

- A. To build and maintain The Vineyard USA, which is committed to and models the historic Vineyard convictions, values, priorities, practices and leadership standards, which are, stated hereafter.
- B. To support and strengthen pastors of local churches by providing pastoral care, relationship, resources for ministry and a means for bringing biblical discipline, if needed.
- C. To support and strengthen local churches by providing general counsel, training materials, and potential new or additional pastoral leadership.
- D. To assist local churches in achieving their mission by providing assistance in defining, strategizing and implementing their mission, and by designing missions strategies and outreaches in which they may join.
- E. To plant and nurture new churches which are committed to and model the Vineyard convictions, values, priorities, practices and leadership standards.
- F. To bring renewal to the larger Church of Christ around the world, both through direct ministry and through the stimulation of our example.

III. OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

A. GOD THE KING AND THE HOLY TRINITY

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal¹ King.² He is an infinite,³ unchangeable⁴ Spirit,⁵ perfect⁶ in holiness,⁷ wisdom,⁸ goodness,⁹ justice,¹⁰ power¹¹ and love.¹² From all eternity¹³ He exists as the One¹⁴ Living¹⁵ and True¹⁶

¹Deuteronomy 33:27: "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Isaiah 44:6: "This is what the Lord says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." Romans 1:20: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

²Psalms 95:3: "For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods." Isaiah 43:15: "I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel's Creator, your King."

³Psalm 147:5: "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit ('is infinite' N.A.S.B.)" Job 11:7-9: "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens - what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave - what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea."

⁴James 1:17: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

⁵John 4:24: "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

⁶Matthew 5:48: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

⁷Isaiah 6:3: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." I Peter 1:15-16: "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

⁸Psalms 104:24: "How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." Proverbs 2:6: "For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Isaiah 28:29: "All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom."

⁹Exodus 33:19: "And the Lord said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you [Moses], and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.'" Psalm 31:19: "How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you."

¹⁰Psalms 33:5: "The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love." Psalm 89:14: "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you." Isaiah 30:18: "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"

¹¹Exodus 15:6: "Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy." Psalm 63:2: "I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory."

¹²John 4:8: "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

¹³Isaiah 43:13: "Even from eternity, I am He.... (N.A.S.B.)"

¹⁴Isaiah 45:5: "I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God." I Corinthians 8:4: "So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one."

¹⁵Psalms 42:2: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" Psalm 84:2: "My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

¹⁶Jeremiah 10:10: "But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King."

God in three persons¹⁷ of one substance,¹⁸ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,¹⁹ equal in power and glory.²⁰

¹⁷John 1:18: "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only (or "the only begotten God," N.A.S.B.) who is at the Father's side, has made him known." John 10:30: "I and the Father are one." John 14:9: "Anyone who has seen me [Jesus] has seen the Father." John 14:16-17: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth." John 14:26: "...the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name..." John 15:26: "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me." II Corinthians 3:17-18: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

¹⁸John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." II Corinthians 3:17: "Now the Lord is the Spirit..."

¹⁹Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." II Corinthians 13:14: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Revelation 1:4: "Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits (Or the sevenfold Spirit, N.I.V. fn.) before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth."

²⁰Revelation 5:13: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:14-21: "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.... Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

B. GOD THE KING: THE CREATOR AND RULER OF ALL THINGS

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom is everlasting.²¹ From His throne,²² through His Son, His eternal Word,²³ God created,²⁴ upholds²⁵ and governs²⁶ all that exists:²⁷ the heavenly places,²⁸ the angelic hosts,²⁹ the universe,³⁰ the earth,³¹ every living thing³² and human beings.³³ God created all things very good.³⁴

²¹Psalm 45:6: "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom." Psalm 145:13: "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations." Daniel 4:3: "How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation."

²²Psalm 93:1-2: "The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity."

²³John 1:1-3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." I Corinthians 8:6: "...yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live." Colossians 1:15-16: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him." Hebrews 1:1-2: "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe."

²⁴Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Psalm 95:3-5: "For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."

²⁵Colossians 1:17: "He [Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Hebrews 1:3: "The Son is...sustaining all things by his powerful word."

²⁶Psalm 103:19: "The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all." Psalm 104:24-29: "How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.... These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust."

²⁷Psalm 96:4-6: "For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary."

²⁸Psalm 89:11: "The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it."

²⁹Psalm 103:20-21: "Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will."

³⁰Colossians 1:16-17: "For by him [Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

³¹Psalm 104:5: "He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved."

³²Psalm 103:22: "Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion."

³³Psalm 22:28: "...for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations." Psalm 47:8: "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne."

³⁴Genesis 1:31: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

C. COUNTERFEIT KINGDOM: SATAN AND DEMONIC HOSTS

WE BELIEVE that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him.³⁵ He was cast out of God's presence and, as a usurper of God's rule established a counter-kingdom of darkness³⁶ and evil on the earth. ³⁷

³⁵Revelation 12:7-9: "And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."

³⁶II Corinthians 11:14: "...for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." Colossians 1:13-14: "For he [God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Ephesians 6:12: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

³⁷Mark 3:22-26: "And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He [Jesus] is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.' So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: 'How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.' " Ephesians 2:1-2: "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." I John 5:19: "We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."

D. THE KINGDOM IN CREATION, THE FALL & THE DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN

WE BELIEVE that God created mankind in His image, male and female,³⁸ for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth.³⁹ Under the temptation of Satan,⁴⁰ our original parents fell from grace,⁴¹ bringing sin,⁴² sickness⁴³ and God's judgment of death to the earth.⁴⁴ Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation.⁴⁵ Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin.⁴⁶ Human beings are born in sin,⁴⁷ subject to God's judgment of death⁴⁸ and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.⁴⁹

³⁸Genesis 1:26-27: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness....' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

³⁹Genesis 1:26: "...and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

⁴⁰Genesis 3:1: "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?' " Revelation 12:9: "The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray."

⁴¹Genesis 3:8: "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." Romans 1:21: "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles." Romans 5:16: "The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation...."

⁴²Romans 5:12: "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...."

⁴³John 5:14: "Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, 'See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.' "

⁴⁴1 Corinthians 15:22: "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

⁴⁵John 8:44: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." I John 5:19: "We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."

⁴⁶Romans 8:20-23: "For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God."

⁴⁷Psalms 51:5: "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

⁴⁸Ezekiel 18:4: "For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son - both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die." Romans 2:5: "But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."

Romans 2:12: "All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law." Hebrews 9:27: "...man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...."

⁴⁹Galatians 1:3-5: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age...." Galatians 4:8-9: "Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God - or rather are known by God - how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? (or "the elemental spirits of the universe" R.S.V.)? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?" Colossians 1:13: "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves...."

E. GOD'S PROVIDENCE, KINGDOM LAW AND COVENANTS

WE BELIEVE that God did not abandon His rule over the earth⁵⁰ which He continues to uphold by His providence.⁵¹ In order to bring redemption, God established covenants⁵² which revealed His grace to sinful people.⁵³ In the covenant with Abraham, God bound Himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from bondage to sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them.⁵⁴

WE BELIEVE that as King, God later redeemed His people by His mighty acts from bondage in Egypt⁵⁵

⁵⁰Psalms 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..."

⁵¹Psalms 96:10: "Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns.' The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." Isaiah 40:22: "He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in." Hebrews 1:3: "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

⁵²Romans 9:4: "Theirs [the people of Israel] is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises."

⁵³Ephesians 2:12: "...the covenants of the promise...."

⁵⁴Genesis 17:3-8: "Abram fell face down, and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram, your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.' " See Genesis 12:2-3: "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 15:4-6: "Then the word of the Lord came to him [Abram]: 'This man [Eliezer of Damascus] will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.' He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the heavens and count the stars - if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." Romans 4:3-5: "What does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness." Romans 4:16: "Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring - not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all." Romans 4:20-25: "Yet he [Abraham] did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.' The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone, but also for us to whom God will credit righteousness - for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." Galatians 3:6-9: "Consider Abraham: 'He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.' Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.' So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." Galatians 3:13-14: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

⁵⁵Exodus 15:3-18: "The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea.... Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you.... Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?.... The Lord will reign for ever and ever."

and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfill it.⁵⁶ The law's purpose is to order our fallen race⁵⁷ and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility.⁵⁸

⁵⁶Exodus 19:3-6: "Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, 'This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.'" Exodus 24:3-4: "When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, 'Everything the Lord has said we will do.' Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said." Exodus 24:7: "Then he [Moses] took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, 'We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.'" Romans 8:3-4: "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:12-14: "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

⁵⁷ Deuteronomy 5:1-3: "Moses, summoned all Israel and said: Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. It was not with our fathers that the Lord made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today." Deuteronomy 30:15-18: "See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess." Galatians 3:23-25: "Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law."

⁵⁸Psalms 25:8-10: "Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant." Romans 7:7: "What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, 'Do not covet.'" "

By the work of God's Spirit,⁵⁹ it convicts us of our sin⁶⁰ and God's righteous judgment against us⁶¹ and brings us to Christ alone for salvation.⁶²

⁵⁹John 15:26: "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me." John 16:8-11: "When he [The Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned." II Corinthians 3:14-17: "But their [Israel's] minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

⁶⁰Romans 7:13: "Did that which is good [the Law], then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful." Galatians 3:19: "What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed [Christ] to whom the promise referred had come...." Galatians 3:21-22: "Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe."

⁶¹Romans 2:1-11: "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God 'will give to each person according to what he has done.' To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism."

⁶²Galatians 3:24: "So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith." Philippians 3:8-9: "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."

WE BELIEVE that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King,⁶³ God established the monarchy in Israel⁶⁴ and made an unconditional covenant with David,⁶⁵ promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever.⁶⁶

⁶³ Samuel 8:6-8: "But when they [Israel] said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you.' "

⁶⁴ I Samuel 8:21-22: "When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. The Lord answered, 'Listen to them and give them a king.' " I Samuel 9:15-16: "Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed this to Samuel: 'About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him leader over my people Israel; he will deliver my people from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon my people, for their cry has reached me.' " I Samuel 10:1: "Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him saying, 'Has not the Lord anointed you leader over his inheritance?' " I Samuel 10:24: "Samuel said to all the people, 'Do you see the man the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.' Then the people shouted, 'Long live the king!' "

⁶⁵ I Samuel 7:11b-16: "The Lord declares to you [David] that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me, your throne will be established forever." Psalm 89:34-37: "I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness - and I will not lie to David - that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky."

⁶⁶ Isaiah 9:6-7: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." Isaiah 11: 1-5: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse [David's father]; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist." Jeremiah 23:5-6: " 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.' " Ezekiel 34:23: "I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken."

F. CHRIST THE MEDIATOR AND ETERNAL KING

WE BELIEVE that in the fullness of time,⁶⁷ God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation⁶⁸ by sending His only Son,⁶⁹ Jesus, into the world.⁷⁰ Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,⁷¹ as fully God and fully human in one person,⁷² He is humanity as God intended us to be.⁷³ Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit,⁷⁴ inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth,⁷⁵ overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation,⁷⁶ preaching the good news of salvation,⁷⁷ healing the sick,⁷⁸ casting out demons⁷⁹ and raising the dead.⁸⁰

⁶⁷Mark 1:15: "The time is fulfilled.... (N.A.S.B.)." Galatians 4:4: "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son...."

⁶⁸Romans 1:2-4: "...the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ [Messiah] our Lord."

⁶⁹John 1:14: "We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

⁷⁰John 1:17-18: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."

⁷¹Luke 1:30-35: "But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'"

⁷²John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us." Philippians 2:5-7: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

⁷³Romans 5:19: "For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam] the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man [Christ] the many will be made righteous." I Corinthians 15:22: "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." I Peter 2:22: "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." II Corinthians 5:21: "...him who had no sin...." Romans 8:29: "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

⁷⁴Luke 3:21-22: "When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'" Luke 4:16-21: "He [Jesus] went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor' ... and he said to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'"

⁷⁵Mark 1:14-15: "After John was put into prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near (or, 'at hand' N.A.S.B.). Repent and believe the good news.'" Luke 11:20: "But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you."

Luke 17:20-21: "Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, 'The kingdom of God does not come visibly, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within [or 'among'] you.'"

⁷⁶Luke 4:1-13: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.... Jesus answered, 'It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.'"

⁷⁷Luke 4:43: "But he [Jesus] said, 'I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.'"

⁷⁸Luke 4:40: "When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them."

⁷⁹Luke 4:41: "Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.'"

⁸⁰Luke 7:14-17: "Then he [Jesus] went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, 'Young man, I say to you, get up!' The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. 'A great prophet has appeared among us,' they said. 'God has come to help his people.' This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country."

Gathering His disciples,⁸¹ He reconstituted God's people⁸² as His Church⁸³ to be the instrument of His kingdom.⁸⁴ After dying for the sins of the world,⁸⁵ Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day,⁸⁶ fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham.⁸⁷ In His sinless, perfect life⁸⁸ Jesus met the demands of the law⁸⁹ and in His atoning death on the cross⁹⁰ He took God's judgment for sin⁹¹ which we deserve as law-breakers.⁹² By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers.⁹³ The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house,⁹⁴

⁸¹Mark 1:16-17: "As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him."

⁸²Mark 3:13-15: "Jesus went up into the hills and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve - designating them apostles - that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons."

⁸³Matthew 16:18: "...I will build my church...."

⁸⁴Luke 9:1-2: "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." Luke 10:1-17 "After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them...'Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you'.... The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.' "

⁸⁵J John 1:29: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' " John 6:51: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." I John 4:9-10: "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

⁸⁶Mark 8:31: "He [Jesus] then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again." I Corinthians 15:3-5: "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve."

⁸⁷Galatians 3:13-14: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

⁸⁸Acts 3:14-15: "You [Jews] disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this." Hebrews 4:15: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet without sin."

⁸⁹Romans 5:18-19: "Consequently, just as the result of one trespass [of Adam] was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness [of Christ] was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

⁹⁰I Peter 2:24: "He [Jesus] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

⁹¹Galatians 3: 13: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us...." II Corinthians 5:21: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

⁹²Romans 1:18: "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...." Romans 1:32: "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them." Romans 2:12: "All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law." II Thessalonians 1:6-10: "God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you."

⁹³Colossians 2:13-15: "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the [demonic] powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

⁹⁴Matthew 1:1: "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham."

His Messianic ministry,⁹⁵ His glorious resurrection from the dead,⁹⁶ His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father.⁹⁷ As God's Son and David's heir,⁹⁸ He is the eternal Messiah-King,⁹⁹ advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁵ Luke 1:68-72: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us - to show mercy to our fathers..." Luke 2:10-11: "But the angel said to them [the shepherds], 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" Matthew 9:27: "As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, 'Have mercy on us, son of David!' "

⁹⁶ Acts 2:24-28: "But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him: 'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' "

⁹⁷ Acts 2:29-36: "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, 'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

⁹⁸ Romans 1:1-4: "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God - the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

⁹⁹ Hebrews 1:1-3: "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

¹⁰⁰ I Corinthians 15:24-26: "Then the end will come, when he [Christ] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death." Ephesians 1:19-23: "That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." Revelation 5:5: "Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll [of destiny] and its seven seals.' "

G. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power,¹⁰¹ baptizing believers into the Body of Christ¹⁰² and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them.¹⁰³ The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us¹⁰⁴ for spiritual worship,¹⁰⁵ personal sanctification,¹⁰⁶ building up the Church,¹⁰⁷ gifting us for ministry,¹⁰⁸ and driving back the kingdom of Satan¹⁰⁹ by the evangelization of the world through proclaiming the word of Jesus¹¹⁰ and doing the works of Jesus.¹¹¹

¹⁰¹Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 2:1-4: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

¹⁰²1 Corinthians 12:13: "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

¹⁰³1 Corinthians 12:4-7: "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

¹⁰⁴John 14:16-17: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth."

¹⁰⁵Romans 12:1: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Ephesians 5:18-20: "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

¹⁰⁶Romans 8:3-4: "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

¹⁰⁷1 Corinthians 14:12: "Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church." 1 Corinthians 14:26: "What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening ("edification" N.A.S.B.) of the church."

¹⁰⁸Romans 12:4-6: "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace give us."

¹⁰⁹Luke 11:20: "But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you." 1 John 3:8b: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

¹¹⁰Ephesians 6:10-20: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.... And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

¹¹¹John 14:12-13: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." Romans 15:18-19: "I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done - by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit." 1 Corinthians 4:20: "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power."

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ¹¹² and that He is our abiding Helper,¹¹³ Teacher,¹¹⁴ and Guide.¹¹⁵ We believe in the filling or empowering of the Holy Spirit,¹¹⁶ often a conscious experience,¹¹⁷ for ministry today.¹¹⁸ We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit¹¹⁹ and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit.¹²⁰ We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit,¹²¹ for healing,¹²² and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church.¹²³

¹¹²Romans 8:9-10: "You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."

¹¹³John 16:7: "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor ["Comforter, Advocate, Helper"] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

¹¹⁴John 14:26: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

¹¹⁵John 16:13-15: "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you." Romans 8:14: "...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

¹¹⁶Luke 24:49: "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Acts 4:31: "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

¹¹⁷Acts 8:18-19: "When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 19:1-2: "While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'"

¹¹⁸I Corinthians 2:4-5: "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power." II Corinthians 4:7: "But we have this treasure [the gospel] in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." II Corinthians 6:4-7: "Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: ... in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left..."

¹¹⁹Joel 2:28-29: "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." Acts 2:15-17: "These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God, says, I will pour out my spirit on all people...'"

¹²⁰I Corinthians 12:7-11: "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.... All these [gifts] are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." I Corinthians 14:1: "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy." I Corinthians 14: 5: "I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy." I Thessalonians 5:19-21: "Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good."

¹²¹Acts 8:14-17: "When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." Acts 19:6: "When Paul placed his hands on them [new converts in Ephesus], the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

¹²²Mark 1:41: "Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man [a leper]. 'I am willing [to heal you],' he said, 'Be clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured." Luke 6:18b-19: "Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all." Mark 16:18: "...they [the evangelists] will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

¹²³Acts 13:1-3: "In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off." I Timothy 4:14: "Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you." II Timothy 1:6: "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

H. THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture¹²⁴ so that the Bible is without error¹²⁵ in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments¹²⁶ as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith¹²⁷ and practice.¹²⁸

¹²⁴II Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Peter 1:20-21: "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." I Corinthians 2:12-13: "We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." John 14:26: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

¹²⁵Psalm 19:7-9: "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous." Psalm 119:11: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:30: "I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws." Psalm 119:43: "Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws." Psalm 119:89: "Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens." Matthew 5:17-18: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." John 3:34: "For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit." John 10:35: "...the Scripture cannot be broken..." I Thessalonians 2:13: "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe." Revelation 22:6: "The angel said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.' "

¹²⁶Luke 24:44: "He [Jesus] said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' " II Peter 3:15-16: "Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction." Revelation 22:18-19: "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

¹²⁷Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." Matthew 24:35: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

¹²⁸Matthew 7:21: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 7:24: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Luke 1:38: "And Mary said, 'Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word' [N.A.S.B.]." James 1:22-25: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does."

I. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL OVER THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

WE BELIEVE that the whole world is under the domination of Satan¹²⁹ and that all people are sinners by nature¹³⁰ and choice.¹³¹ All people therefore are under God's just judgment.¹³² Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God¹³³ and the work of the Holy Spirit,¹³⁴ God regenerates,¹³⁵ justifies,¹³⁶ adopts¹³⁷ and sanctifies¹³⁸ through Jesus by the Spirit¹³⁹ all who repent of their sins¹⁴⁰ and trust in

¹²⁹Luke 4:5-7: "The devil led him [Jesus] up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.'" I John 5:19: "We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."

¹³⁰I Corinthians 15:22: "...in Adam all die...." Ephesians 2:1-3: "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

¹³¹Romans 1:21-23: "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles." Romans 1:32: "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

¹³²Romans 1:18: "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...." Romans 2:5: "But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed." II Corinthians 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." Ephesians 5:6: "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient."

¹³³Mark 1:14-15: "After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!'" Acts 8:12: "But when they [the Samaritans] believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 28:31: "Boldly and without hindrance he [Paul] preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:5: "For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

¹³⁴John 16:7-11: "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."

¹³⁵John 3:5-8: "Jesus answered, 'I tell you [Nicodemus] the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'" I Peter 1:23: "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."

¹³⁶Romans 5:1-2: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." Romans 5:9: "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!"

¹³⁷Romans 8:15: "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship ("adoption," N.A.S.B.). And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" Galatians 4:6: "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'" "

¹³⁸Ephesians 5:25: "...just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy ("to sanctify her" N.A.S.B.), cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Hebrews 13:12: "And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy ("that He might sanctify the people" N.A.S.B.) through his own blood."

¹³⁹I Peter 1:1-2: "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance."

¹⁴⁰Acts 2:38: "Peter replied, 'Repent and baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" "

Jesus Christ as Lord¹⁴¹ and Savior.¹⁴² By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.¹⁴³

¹⁴¹Romans 10:9: "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

¹⁴²John 4:13-15: "We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God."

¹⁴³Colossians 1:13-14: "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Philippians 3:20: "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

J. THE CHURCH: INSTRUMENT OF THE KINGDOM

WE BELIEVE in the one,¹⁴⁴ holy,¹⁴⁵ universal Church.¹⁴⁶ All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit¹⁴⁷ and form the living Body of Christ,¹⁴⁸ of which He is the head¹⁴⁹ and of which we are all members.¹⁵⁰

K. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism¹⁵¹ and the Lord's Supper.¹⁵² Both are available to all believers.

¹⁴⁴John 17:20-21: "My prayer is not for them, alone, I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Ephesians 4:3-6: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

¹⁴⁵I Corinthians 3:16-17: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred ("holy" N.A.S.B.), and you are that temple."

¹⁴⁶Matthew 16:17-18: "Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.' " I Corinthians 1:2: "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours...." Ephesians 2:18-19: "For through him [Christ] we both [Jew and Gentile] have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household..." I Peter 2:9-10: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God, once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

¹⁴⁷Titus 3:4-7: "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

¹⁴⁸Romans 12:4-5: "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

¹⁴⁹Ephesians 1:22: "And God placed all things under his [Christ's] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." Ephesians 5:23: "...Christ is the head of the church...."

¹⁵⁰I Corinthians 12:27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

¹⁵¹Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

¹⁵²I Corinthians 11:23-26: "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

L. THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE FINAL JUDGMENT

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁵³ that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church,¹⁵⁴ and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ¹⁵⁵ - His return to the earth as King.¹⁵⁶ After Christ returns to reign,¹⁵⁷ He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works,¹⁵⁸ the resurrection of the dead,¹⁵⁹ the final judgment¹⁶⁰ and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious

¹⁵³Daniel 7:13-14: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." Matthew 4:23: "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people." Matthew 12:28: "But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

¹⁵⁴Matthew 6:10: "...[Father] your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 10:7-8: "As you [disciples] go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Mark 13:11: "Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit." John 15:26-27: "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning." Romans 14:17-18: "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men."

¹⁵⁵Mark 13:26: "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens." Acts 1:9-11: "After he [Jesus] said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.' " II Thessalonians 2:8: "And then the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming."

¹⁵⁶Revelation 19:11-16: "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

¹⁵⁷Matthew 25:31-32: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." I Corinthians 15:23-25: "But each in his own turn [will be made alive]: Christ, the first-fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet."

¹⁵⁸Revelation 20:10: "And the devil, who deceived them [the nations], was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

¹⁵⁹I Corinthians 15:51-52: "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

¹⁶⁰John 5:28-30: "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his [the Son of Man's] voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me." Revelation 20:11-15: "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

punishment of the wicked.¹⁶¹ Finally, God will be all in all¹⁶² and His kingdom, His rule and reign,¹⁶³ will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth,¹⁶⁴ recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells¹⁶⁵ and in which He will forever be worshipped.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶¹ Matthew 25:31-46: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.... Then they [the goats] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

¹⁶² I Corinthians 15:24-28: "Then the end will come, when he [Christ] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he 'has put everything under his feet.' Now when it says that 'everything' has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all."

¹⁶³ I Timothy 6:13-16: "In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time - God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen."

¹⁶⁴ I Peter 3:13: "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness." Revelation 21:5: "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' "

¹⁶⁵ Revelation 21:27: "Nothing impure will ever enter it [the new Jerusalem], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

¹⁶⁶ I Timothy 1:17: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." Revelation 7:9-12: "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!' "

IV. OUR VALUES

- A. We value **THE PURSUIT OF GOD**. We are hungry to know God's presence, hear His voice and follow hard after Him.¹⁶⁷
- B. We value **CHRISTLIKENESS**. We desire that through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus' love, mercy, grace, truth, purity, power, and integrity would shine through all that we are and do.¹⁶⁸
- C. We value **BEING SPIRIT-LED**. We honor Jesus as our Head and the Holy Spirit as our Counselor and the Administrator of our churches. We seek to be actively responsive to the Holy Spirit's daily leading of our personal lives and ministries and of the local church.¹⁶⁹
- D. We value **PRAYER**. We believe that prayer is essential, because it is our primary means of communion with God, and because of our personal lives and ministries and of the local church.¹⁷⁰
- E. We value **DISCIPLESHIP**. Our intent is to teach all believers to believe Jesus' words, obey His commands and do His works. We aim first to grow as disciples of Christ ourselves and then to make disciples of others.¹⁷¹
- F. We value **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**. We aim to move in the signs of the present fulfillment of the kingdom, invoking the Spirit's powerful presence, ministering through the Spirit's gifts, and seeing God heal and work wonders.¹⁷²
- G. We value the **MERCY OF GOD**. We believe that mercy is fundamental to all that God does in salvation. We, therefore, aim to extend mercy to one another and to all to whom we minister.¹⁷³
- H. We value **INTEGRITY**. It is important for us to speak the truth, deal honestly, and **live uprightly**.¹⁷⁴

¹⁶⁷Psalm 63:1-3: O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

¹⁶⁸ Ephesians 5:2: and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

¹⁶⁹ Galatians 5:5: But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. Romans 8:14: because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

¹⁷⁰1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

¹⁷¹ Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

¹⁷² Mark 1:14, 15: After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

¹⁷³ Colossians 3:12, 13: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁷⁴ Ephesians 4:15: Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

- I. We value **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**. We believe that Christ has put significant leadership authority in the hands of the pastor and associates. We aim to exercise that authority with humility, selflessness, grace, care for the sheep, and a sincere desire to build up the Body of Christ.¹⁷⁵
- J. We value **THE INDIVIDUAL**, single or married, and we want to enable and support mature relationships and family growth.¹⁷⁶
- K. We value **UNITY**. We are convinced that all who belong to Christ are one in His Body, the Church. We aim to maintain unity by honoring all who call on Jesus' name and by seeking reconciliation with all parts of the Church.¹⁷⁷
- L. We value **COLLEGIATE RELATIONSHIPS**. We are honored by every person whom God adds to the Vineyard. We aim to work together to build the Church through maintaining mutual respect, open communication, determined cooperation, and believing and speaking the best about each other.¹⁷⁸
- M. We value **REALITY**. We aim to walk in the Spirit and see real supernatural works of God. We aim also to function on the natural plan based on God's leading in conjunction with excellent, relational thinking.¹⁷⁹
- N. We value **SIMPLICITY**. We wish to do nothing for "religious effect" but rather to operate in natural low-key, non-hype patterns. We desire to do the ministry of Christ with joy.¹⁸⁰
- O. We value being **CULTURE CURRENT**. We aim to develop an atmosphere of ease, and to speak, act, and dress in ways in which our culture can respond positively. For example, we reflect this value through worship music that is of a popular style.¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁵ Mark 10:37, 44-45: They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

¹⁷⁶ Romans 12:9, 10: Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

¹⁷⁷ John 17:21-23: that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

¹⁷⁸ I Corinthians 13:4-7: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

¹⁷⁹ James 1:5: If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

¹⁸⁰ Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

¹⁸¹ I Corinthians 9:19-23: Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

V. OUR PRIORITIES

A. WORSHIP

1. We desire to worship God with our whole being. We want Jesus at the center as our Lord. We hunger for the fullness of the Spirit... His glory resting upon us!¹⁸²
2. We desire Spirit-enabled worship in a style that is intimate, dynamic, culture current, and life changing.¹⁸³

B. THE WORD

1. We want to hear the Word of God taught in a practical, inspiring way, in conjunction with His current prophetic word.¹⁸⁴
2. We aim to hear and obey God's Word to us... to be "doers of the Word" who are being transformed into the likeness of Christ.¹⁸⁵

¹⁸² Philippians 3:3: For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh--; Hebrews 13:15: Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. Psalm 42:1, 2: For the director of music. A maskil of the Sons of Korah. As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? John 4:24: God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." Psalm 63:1-5: A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah. O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. Romans 12:1: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

¹⁸³ 1 Peter 2:4: As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--; Ephesians 2:19-22: Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Corinthians 14:26: What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

¹⁸⁴ Romans 15:4: For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Corinthians 14:26: What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

¹⁸⁵ Matthew 7:24-27: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." James 1:22: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

C. FELLOWSHIP

1. We are the family of God, one Body in Jesus Christ, joined together as brothers and sisters forever.¹⁸⁶
3. We seek to develop real, intimate, enabling friendships together, built on covenant love, mutual responsibility and faithfulness.¹⁸⁷

D. MINISTRY

1. We believe that all Christians are called to serve Christ in the power of His Spirit, in ways that build up the local church.¹⁸⁸
2. We are called to do the ministry of Christ in the world today, for example, to...
 - a. preach the Gospel of the Kingdom¹⁸⁹
 - b. persuade people to repent and believe in Jesus¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁶ John 17:20-23: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Romans 12:3-5: For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

¹⁸⁷ Hebrews 3:12-14: See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. Philippians 2:3-5: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus; Ephesians 4:11-16: It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 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. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Colossians 3:12-15: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

¹⁸⁸ Peter 4:10, 11: Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7: There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

¹⁸⁹ Matthew 10:7: As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'

¹⁹⁰ Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." 2 Corinthians 5:11: Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. Colossians 1:28: We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

- c. heal the sick¹⁹¹
- d. care for the poor and those in need¹⁹²
- e. counsel those in need of God's wisdom¹⁹³
- f. teach believers to follow Christ¹⁹⁴
- g. give our resources to the work of Christ¹⁹⁵
- h. train Christians to serve the Lord.¹⁹⁶

E. TRAINING

1. We believe that all Christians should be trained to "do the works of Christ."¹⁹⁷
2. We are committed to the "show and tell" model of "on the job" training, in which trainees are introduced to doing ministry functions with trainers and then are taught during and after the training experience.¹⁹⁸
3. We aim to provide training for all aspects of responsible Christian life and ministry.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹¹ Matthew 10:8: Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

¹⁹² Matthew 19:21: Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

¹⁹³ Colossians 3:16: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

¹⁹⁴ 1 Corinthians 11:1: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

¹⁹⁵ Luke 6:38: Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

¹⁹⁶ Ephesians 4:11-12: It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

¹⁹⁷ Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." 2 Timothy 2:2: And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

¹⁹⁸ Luke 11:1-4: One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

¹⁹⁹ Ephesians 4:11-16: It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 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. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

F. SENDING

1. We aim to renew, refresh, and enable existing churches by sending trained personnel out on short-term ministry trips.²⁰⁰
2. We aim to build the Church of Jesus Christ by sending trained personnel to plant churches around the world.²⁰¹

VI. THE PRACTICES WE AIM TO INSTILL

A. PRAYER SKILLS

1. Prayer of praise and adulation²⁰²
2. Prayer of petition²⁰³
3. Prayer of intercession²⁰⁴
4. Prayer of tongues²⁰⁵
5. Prayer of faith, in healing and expulsion of demons²⁰⁶

B. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SKILLS

1. Intimacy²⁰⁷

²⁰⁰ Matthew 10:5-15: These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. Luke 9:1-6: When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He told them: "Take nothing for the journey--no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere. Luke 10:1: After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

²⁰¹ Revelation 5:9-10: And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Romans 15:20: It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

²⁰² Psalm 34:1: I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

²⁰³ Philippians 4:6: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

²⁰⁴ Romans 8:26-27: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. 1 Timothy 2:1: I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--

²⁰⁵ 1 Corinthians 14:14-15: For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

²⁰⁶ James 5:15: And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Mark 1:25: "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!"

²⁰⁷ Song of Solomon 7:10-12: I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me. Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom--there I will give you my love.

2. Communication²⁰⁸
3. Child-rearing²⁰⁹
4. Financial planning²¹⁰
5. Life management²¹¹

C. GENERAL MINISTRY SKILLS

1. Communication skills — the ability to speak
 - a. the ability to witness — sharing your experience with others²¹²
 - b. the ability to counsel — sharing God's Word with others²¹³
 - c. the ability to teach — sharing God's Word with others²¹⁴
2. Community skills — the ability to relate
 - a. ministry to the Lord in...
 - 1) worship²¹⁵
 - 2) fellowship²¹⁶
 - 3) obedient service of all kinds²¹⁷
 - 4) giving²¹⁸
 - 5) personal Bible study²¹⁹

²⁰⁸Song of Solomon 7:6-9: How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights! Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth.

²⁰⁹Ephesians 6:4: Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

²¹⁰Proverbs 13:11: Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.

²¹¹Ephesians 4:22-24: You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Proverbs 15:22: Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

²¹²Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

²¹³Ephesians 4:15: Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

²¹⁴2 Timothy 2:24-26: And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

²¹⁵John 4:24: God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

²¹⁶John 15:4: Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

²¹⁷Mark 10:45: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

²¹⁸John 4:34: "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

²¹⁹2 Timothy 2:15: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

- b. ministry to the Body
 - 1) giving and receiving forgiveness²²⁰
 - 2) laying on hands²²¹
 - 3) exercise of gifts²²²
 - 4) fellowship — sharing and relating to one another²²³
 - 5) healing the sick — spiritually, socially, emotionally, bodily, demonic²²⁴

- c. ministry to the world
 - 1) care for the poor
 - 2) care of the lost
 - 3) care of the sick and broken-hearted

²²⁰ Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 18:21-35: Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the Kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

²²¹ 1 Timothy 4:14: Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

²²² 1 Corinthians 14:26: What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

²²³ Hebrews 3:12-14: See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

²²⁴ James 5:13-16: Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

VII. OUR LEADERSHIP PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Sincere love for and pursuit of Jesus Christ demonstrated in regular personal worship, meditation on the Word, and prayer.²²⁶
- B. Demonstrated fullness of the Holy Spirit, of faith and of wisdom.²²⁷
- C. A perception of leadership not as grasping for position, or title, or power, or authority, or respect, or privilege, but as a commitment to humble service and self-sacrifice.²²⁸
- D. Personal exposure, loyalty and commitment to their pastors, and to those whom they are pastoring.²²⁹
- E. Trustworthiness, with the ability to resist being bribed or bought.²³⁰

²²⁶ Psalm 1:1-6: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Psalm 18:1-3: For the director of music. Of David the servant of the LORD. He sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

²²⁷ Acts 6:3: Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.

²²⁸ Mark 10:37: They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." Mark 10:42-45: Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." John 13:12-16: When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Philippians 2:5-9: Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, Peter 5:1-5: To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

²²⁹ Mark 3:14-15: He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

²³⁰ Exodus 18:21: But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

- F. Commitment to the “Barnabas-style” of open, loving communication, to solving relational problems, to processing anger constructively, to encouraging and building up and maintaining confidences strictly.²³¹
- G. Willingness to be a “team player” and to help one’s pastoral associates to succeed.²³²
- H. A strong, loving marriage in which both the husband and wife sense the call to minister.²³³
- I. Capable and respected, mature in the faith, and with proven ministry ability.²³⁴
- J. Willingness to be judged by strict standards and to accept reproof.²³⁵
- K. Love for people and for Jesus, without desire to benefit personally at the expense of the sheep.²³⁶
- L. Commitment to equipping others for ministry through active recruiting, training, deploying, monitoring and nurturing.²³⁷

²³¹ Acts 4:36, 37: Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet. Ephesians 4:25-32: Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

²³² Philippians 2:3-4: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

²³³ Acts 18:26: He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

²³⁴ 1 Timothy 3:2-7: Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

²³⁵ James 3:1: Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

²³⁶ John 21:17: The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Ezekiel 34:1: The word of the LORD came to me: 1 Peter 5:1-5: To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

²³⁷ Mark 3:13-15: Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

M. Commitment to doing excellent work, taking responsibility seriously, being proactive, planning and executing well.²³⁸

N. A committed, cheerful giver who tithes regularly to the fellowship.²³⁹

²³⁸ Ezra 5:1-2: Now Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the prophet, a descendant of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them. Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak set to work to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets of God were with them, helping them.

²³⁹ Malachi 3:8-10: "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.