

## Doctrinal Statement

1. That there is one God, who is known in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All are equally divine, all are equally eternal, yet each is distinct in identity and role within the Godhead. The one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – created all that exists and continues to exercise sovereignty and dominion over all creation.
2. This one God became human in the person of Jesus Christ. Mary, a virgin, gave birth to Jesus having conceived him through the overshadowing power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ of Nazareth was fully human and fully divine. That is, He was subject to all human temptations and fleshly frailties, but never sinned. In a manner incomprehensible to us, in the midst of His humanity He remained God but laid aside His divine prerogatives.
3. Jesus Christ atoned for all human sin by shedding His blood on the cross. On the third day he was bodily resurrected from the tomb never to die again. In this way mankind has the only means by which each person may be reconciled to God. There is no other way – neither through works nor through creeds – by which anyone can be saved apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the resurrection power He imparts to all who receive Him in faith.
4. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit by which individuals come to experience the gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus in a personal way, whereby they are assured of their eternal destiny.
5. Faith is not only a personal experience of salvation in Christ Jesus, but also a transformed life that reflects the continued working of the Holy Spirit to conform each individual believer to the image of Christ. The human will must be yielded to this working of the Holy Spirit so that each person does good works that show forth the glory of God and are in keeping with His holiness.
6. The Bible is God's Word written. It is inspired in all that it teaches with regard to doctrine and life and is totally trustworthy and to be believed.
7. The two sacraments given to the Church by her Lord, Jesus Christ, are baptism and the Lord's Supper, also known as Holy Communion.
8. The Church is the Body of Christ. As such it is one body united

to one head. Its teacher is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has enlivened and blessed the Church down through the ages with gifts of the Spirit and fruits of the Spirit. In our day, and in all days to come, the Holy Spirit shall continue to work in like manner in the Church. Yet there are differences in the Church. No one part of the Church is able either to comprehend accurately all of God's truth or to live out fully all that God's truth entails. Hence, we allow for differences in doctrine and practice so long as in essentials there is unity. Two ancient creeds which give expression to the essentials of Christian faith are the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

9. The Church is the bride of Christ and eagerly awaits the anticipated return of Jesus Christ the bridegroom to judge the world. All persons shall stand before Christ and enter into fullness of eternal life or be cast into everlasting darkness apart from Christ. The Church is to bear witness to the light of Jesus so that all may have the opportunity of entering into eternal life with Christ.

10. From the beginning of the creation of humankind, God instituted a relationship between one natural-born man and one natural-born woman, which is referred to as marriage. Genesis 2:24 says: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." The writer of Hebrews adds: "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous" (Hebrews 13:4). The Church has traditionally held to the truth that marriage by definition is between one man and one woman alone. God's Word allows or offers no other definition. Salem Hellers affirms this view of marriage alone.

11. We believe that all human life is sacred. God created human beings in his own image. It is sin to do violence against human life in such a way that dishonors God's intent. Genesis 1:27-28a: "So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them." God has knowledge of each of us, even before we are born. "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..." (Jeremiah 1:5a). The psalmist claimed: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-14a). God has ordained life in His creation from the moment of conception. For this reason we stand with the biblical command, which prohibits terminating a life which God has made, especially in the womb.