



EDEN

TENETS OF FAITH

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of this world a saved people who shall constitute the body or church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ, Himself, being the Chief cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, the members of the body, this Church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and, for the exercise of those Scriptural gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore:

be it **RESOLVED**, that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers according to the Scriptural plan for the local church, that we may worship God as a united body, and adopt the following Articles of Church Order, submitting ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I. Status of Bylaws

These Bylaws are subject to the Articles of Incorporation. By law, in the event of a conflict, the Articles of Incorporation prevail.

ARTICLE II. Tenets of Faith

1. United in Thought and Purpose: Since it is absolutely necessary for the participants to be united in thought and purpose so that the church will remain healthy and vibrant, EDEN shall embrace the following position:
2. In essential beliefs, EDEN shall endeavor to maintain unity.
3. In non-essential beliefs, EDEN shall endeavor to maintain liberty.
4. In all beliefs, EDEN shall endeavor to maintain charity.

Essential Beliefs: EDEN shall safeguard the following essential beliefs:

Section 1. The Bible

- a. We recognize the inerrant authority of the 66 canonized books of Holy Scripture and acknowledge dependence upon the Holy Spirit for their accurate interpretation and application.
- b. We hold the Word of God (Logos) as the supreme authority in matters of faith and conduct.
 - i. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21.

Section 2. God

- a. Eternal, having always existed outside of time and space (Genesis 21:33; Deuteronomy 33:27; Revelation 1:8).
- b. The Lord our God is one, consisting of three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1).
- c. God as Father
 - i. Revealed as Father in the Old Testament
 - 1. Psalm 89:26 “He shall cry to Me, “You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation’ NKJV
 - 2. Psalm 68:5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. ESV
 - 3. But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter;
 - 4. And all we are the work of Your hand. Isaiah 64:8 NKJV
 - ii. Addressed as Father in the New Testament
 - 1. In the Pauline letters God is described as “Father” over forty times.
 - 2. It occurs in blessings (Rom 1:7; 1Cor 1:3) Thanksgiving (2 Cor 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2-3) Prayers (Col 1:12) exhortations (Eph 5:20), and creeds (1Cor 8:6; Eph 4:6)
 - 3. For Paul this fatherhood is based not so much on God’s role in creation but rather on the redemption and reconciliation He has made available to us in Jesus Christ
 - iii. Jesus taught His disciples to address God as Father.
 - 1. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Matthew 6:9
 - iv. We are God’s children, He is our Father

1. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1
2. One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all Ephesians 4:6 ESV
3. I Corinthians 8:6 Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and on Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ESV

Section 3. Jesus

- a. The eternal Son of God, both fully God and fully man (John 1:14, 1:18, 3:16, 3:18, 1 John 4:2, 10, 14).
- b. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23).
- c. Without sin (1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:13).
- d. The only One who ultimately restores mankind from sin through the shedding of His blood (John 14:6).
- e. Raised from the dead and seated with the Heavenly Father (Ephesians 1:20; Ephesians 2:6).
- f. The healer of the sick. (Matt. 4:23; Acts 10:38)
- g. Returning again to reign forever in the new heavens and new earth (John 14:1-4; Acts 1:11; 1 John 2:28).

Section 4. Holy Spirit

- a. We believe in a continual infilling (baptism, immersion, outpouring) of the Spirit and the accompanying gifts, power to witness, graces and fruit of the Spirit (Acts 2; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15: 7-9).
- b. We accept, acknowledge, and encourage all of the biblical gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit as present and vital for the church to accomplish her full purpose today (1 Corinthians 12).
- c. We believe Holy Spirit reveals Jesus (John 14:16-17).

- d. We believe that physical, emotional, and spiritual healing are all available through the person and work of Jesus Christ on the cross revealed by the power of Holy Spirit (Isaiah 53:4-5).
- e. We believe in the present-day manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the church today and that supernatural Christianity is normative Christianity.

Section 5. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- a. All Believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire.
- b. This was the normal experience of all the early Christian church.
- c. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; 1:8; I Corinthians 12: 1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the New Birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15: 7-9).
- d. With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1-3), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

Section 6. Mankind

- a. Made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-31). By voluntary transgression, fell, and thereby incurred, not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:17; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

Section 7. Salvation

- a. Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God. I Peter 1:18,19; Hebrews 9:14; 22; Acts 4:12; Galatians 2:16
- b. Conditions to Salvation:
 - i. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

Section 8. The Evidences of Salvation:

- a. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence, to all men, is a life of righteousness and true holiness and the promise of abundant life. John 10:10; Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12

Section 9. The Future

- a. Is hopeful for the Christ-follower, including those who have died in Christ, because of the imminent, physical, and visible return of Christ to establish His Kingdom of a new heaven and a new earth at a date that is undisclosed by the Scriptures.
- b. For the unbeliever who has rejected Christ it is dismal and bleak because of eternal judgment and damnation in hell, separated from God. Psalm 9:17; Matthew 13:41,42; Luke 12:5; Romans 1:18; Revelation 21:8

Section 10. Sin

- a. A condition of the human heart since birth that causes each and every person to fall short of the standard of perfection established by God. Psalm 51: 5; Romans 3:23; 6:23
- b. Any unrighteous behavior identified in the Holy Scriptures. 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Romans 14:23

Section 11. The Church

- a. The Church is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- b. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part (John 3; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Romans 12:4;).
- c. The Church is an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- d. The Five Purposes of The Church (Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 28:19-20)
 - i. To "Love God with all your heart" is called "Worship".
 - ii. To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is called "Ministry".

- iii. To "Go...make disciples" is called "Evangelism".
- iv. To "Baptize..." is to "Incorporate into Fellowship".
- v. To "Teach them...all things" is called "Discipleship".

Section 12. The Ordinances of the Church

a. Baptism in Water

- i. The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

b. Holy Communion

- ii. The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements-bread and the fruit of the vine-is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4) and in the benefits of Calvary (Psa. 103); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "until He comes!"

Section 13. Divine Healing:

- a. Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

Section 14. Civil Government:

- a. We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically as signed spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb.13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

Section 15. Human Sexuality:

- a. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4) We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22- 23)

Section 16. Family Relationships:

- a. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the leadership of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

Section 17. Divorce and Remarriage:

- a. Divorce:
 - i. We believe that divorce is not God's intention. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts." (Matt 19:8) We, therefore, discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marriage union where possible. Marital unfaithfulness should not be considered so much an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration. Divorce in our society is a termination of a marriage through a legal process authorized by the State. While the Church recognizes this legal process as an appropriate means to facilitate the permanent separation of spouses, the Church restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified by the Scriptures.
 - ii. The weight of the Biblical record is negative and the explicit statement is made, "God hates divorce." (Mal. 2:16) Divorce is more than an action of the courts that breaks the legal contract between

the partners in a marriage. It is also the fracture of an unique human relationship between a male and a female. Divorce has profound consequences for the children. Divorce is evidence of the sinful nature expressed in human failure. Jesus gives one explicit cause for the dissolution of marriage: "porneia" or marital unfaithfulness.

- iii. Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christ's love and compassion.

b. Remarriage:

- i. Remarriage is the union, legally sanctioned by the State, of a man and woman, one or both of whom have been previously married. It is regarded as acceptable by the Scriptures in the event of the death of the former spouse and/or, when there has been sexual immorality on the part of the former partner, or the former partner has remarried. I Corinthians 7:39; Matthew 5:32. Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse is also given as a possible reason for divorce. In such a case, the abandoned partner would be free to remarry. I Cor. 7:10-16

Section 18. Abortion:

- a. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. In stating this, we extend the love and mercy of Christ to those who have had abortions and our support, encouragement and help to pregnant mothers who choose to bring the life conceived within them to full term. (Job3:16; Ps.51:5; 139:14-16; Isa.44:24;49:1,5; Jer.1:5;20;15-18)

Section 19. Euthanasia:

- a. We believe that the direct taking of an innocent, human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus, we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)

Section 20. Love:

- a. We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the

taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)

Section 21. Lawsuits Between Believers:

a. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

Section 22. Missions:

a. We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all people so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

Section 23. Giving:

a. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)