



# LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Statement of Beliefs

### **1. THE BIBLE**

We believe the Bible is the true message of God. Through it, God reveals Himself to the world, explains our place in the universe, and invites us into a relationship with Him. Written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is without error in its original manuscripts. It is trustworthy in all it affirms, and is the final authority in matters of faith and conduct.

### **2. THE TRINITY**

We believe there is one living and true God, an eternal Trinity existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe these three persons are equal in their divine perfection and power. In absolute unity, they perform distinct functions in the works of creation, providence, and redemption.

### **3. GOD THE FATHER**

We believe God the Father is an infinite, yet personal spirit whose holiness, wisdom, power, and love are perfect. We believe He created and sustains all things. We believe He involves Himself in the affairs of men and women and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

### **4. JESUS**

We believe the man called Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, is God's only begotten Son. We affirm His conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. We believe He lived a sinless human life, performed verifiable, physical miracles, and taught absolute truth through word and deed. We believe He was crucified and died, came back to life in bodily form, ascended into Heaven, and now intercedes on our behalf. We believe His death paid the penalty for our sin, allowing us into God's presence both now and for eternity. We believe that through Him and for Him all things were made and exist. We believe He will someday return to this earth in bodily form and rule with power and justice.

### **5. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the Holy Spirit works in human minds to reveal sin, encourage repentance, and bring people into God's kingdom. We believe the Holy Spirit resides in every Christian and works in their heart as helper, teacher, and guide. We believe He is able to radically change and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ.

## **6. NEW LIFE**

We believe men and women are created by God in His own image. We also believe humans are sinful, both by nature and choice. We believe all have broken God's laws and are condemned to both physical and spiritual death. We believe Jesus took the penalty for our sin from us when He died on the cross. We believe those who turn from their sin and gratefully accept what Jesus did for them are no longer condemned but become new creatures gifted with eternal life.

## **7. THE CHURCH**

We believe in the universal church — a living, spiritual entity with Christ as the head and all those with faith in Him as members. We believe the local church is a body of believers joined together by common faith and associated locally for worship, fellowship, and outreach. We believe God calls and equips members of the local church for the primary tasks of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and caring for each other.

## **8. OBSERVANCES**

In recognition of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, we practice water baptism as a symbolic and public celebration of each believer's salvation. We also share the Lord's Supper (communion) regularly to remember and honor Jesus' death on our behalf.

## **9. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Within the bounds of Biblical authority, we allow great freedom living out our faith. In essentials, we strive for unity. In non-essentials we recognize and celebrate the unique ways God calls, gifts, and directs people to worship and serve. In all things we seek to obey God while loving, supporting, and encouraging each other. As a body, we remain independent of ecclesiastical, denominational, governmental and other authorities. We do not allow denominational distinctives to separate us from true brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **10. END TIMES**

We believe Jesus will one day return to Earth and establish His Kingdom among humankind. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and eternity in either Heaven or Hell.

## **11. MARRIAGE & HUMAN SEXUALITY**

We believe marriage is God's creation and is ordained by Him for the welfare and happiness of humankind and the propagation of the human race. It is designed to be the spiritual and physical union of one biological man and one biological woman bound together in covenant with God. We affirm the scriptural and historical definition of marriage as both heterosexual and exclusive (monogamous), and sexual intimacy limited to the confines of that relationship. Furthermore, since the body is a creation of God, the Church holds sexual identity to be biologically determined, and associated gender norms are to be observed as appropriate to biblical standards.