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## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

**The Bible** - The Bible is God's holy, inspired, life-giving Word. It is composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. Scripture in its entirety originated with God and was given to us by divinely inspired human authors. Hence, Scripture at one in the same time reflects both the timeless authority of God and the backgrounds, styles, vocabularies and experiences of the human authors. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible in all that they intend to teach, and that they are the final authority on all matters of faith and practice. As such there are no other writings that are equally inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

**God** - There is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each of Whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning God created out of nothing the world and all things therein, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom and goodness. By His sovereign power, He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence, He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes. (Gen. 1; John 1; Col. 1).

**Salvation** - The central purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call all people into fellowship with Him. Originally created to be intimately connected with God, humankind defied God, choosing to go his independent way, and thus was alienated from God and suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. The relational fracture between God and humanity happened at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are thus in need of the saving grace of God.

The salvation of humankind is, then, wholly a work of God's free grace, not the result, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness. Furthermore, God's grace must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith-trusting fully and finally in the mercy of God. When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He gives assurance in His Word that He will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation (Genesis 3; Romans 3:10-12, 23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 1:6; John 6:47).

**Jesus Christ** - Jesus Christ is the eternal second Person of the Trinity who was united forever with a true human nature by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for the sins of all by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus bringing together in perfect balance God's everlasting love and God's divine justice. This substitution death accomplished salvation for all who trust in Him alone. Jesus rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and humankind, continually makes intercession for His own. He will come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. (John 1:14; Jeremiah 33:3; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:1-2).

**The Christian Life (The Holy Spirit)** - The fruit of a life genuinely transformed by Jesus Christ is a life of holiness; a life set apart for the purposes of God. "Positional holiness" occurs at the moment a person enters into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "Personal holiness" and obedience are attained in the lives of believers as they submit to the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the one triune God. He was sent into the world by God the Father and the Son to apply to humankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them a recognition of their need of a Savior and regenerates them. At the point of salvation, He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength, wisdom and power to live a God-honoring life. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the up building of the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Scripture. His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:4-8; John 16:13; Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:22-25; Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12).

**Human Destiny** - Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all humankind, there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Those who have rejected Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be separated from God into condemnation. God's final judgment will reveal His justice in consigning them to perpetuate in eternal retribution their own rejection of God. Believers will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in this life. (Hebrews 9:27; Romans 1:18-32; Matthew 5:12; 1 Corinthians 3:8; Ephesians 6:8; Matthew 5:12, 6:4; Hebrews 11:6).

**The Church** - The corollary of union with Jesus Christ is that all believers become members of His body, the Church. There is one true Church universal, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, the teaching of the Word, the observance of baptism and communion as the sacramental ordinances established by Jesus Christ, fellowship service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world. (1 Cor. 12; Acts 2:42-47; Matt. 28:10; Luke 22:17-20).

**Faith and Practice** - Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible.

**Summary** - Though we recognize that this statement of faith does not address every doctrine of the faith, we believe it to be an accurate summary of what Scripture teaches on matters of essential importance. Furthermore, we affirm the historic creeds of the church contained in both the Apostles' and Nicene Creed. Members of Bay Pointe Community Church shall refrain from advocating doctrines that are not included in the Statement of Faith in such a way as to cause division.