

BELIEFS & PRACTICES

Our intent is to help one another **follow Jesus**¹ as faithful **disciples**² by moving toward God in **worship**, toward one another in **community**, and toward the world on **mission**.

We hold the Bible to be the **Word of God**³, and therefore **submit**⁴ **ourselves to the authority of the Word**, properly interpreted and understood within historic orthodoxy.

We are an **evangelical** church, affirming the centrality of the **gospel of Jesus**⁵ to all of our faith and practice. All of us have sinned⁶, and have thereby brought death upon ourselves, and have distanced ourselves from God. On the cross, Jesus our Messiah took our sin upon himself⁷. In his death and resurrection, we are reconciled with God⁸. We receive God's forgiveness and enter into eternal life through simple trust in Jesus⁹.

We are an **elder-led**¹⁰ church. A board of qualified¹¹ men and women serve together as elders to oversee, shepherd, and govern the church.

We are **missional** to the core, setting aside 20% of our budget toward missions - from our neighborhoods to the ends of the earth. We see racial **reconciliation**¹² as an essential aspect of missions.

We believe the ministry of the **Word** and **prayer**¹³ to be foundational to all that we do, as did the early church.

We hold to a traditional view on **marriage**¹⁴, which is a covenant before God between a man and a woman.

We affirm that the historic **Apostles' Creed** contains the essential doctrines of our faith:

We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic¹⁵ Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

¹Matthew 4.19; 16.24; 19.21 ²Matthew 28.19-20 ³1 Thessalonians 2.13 ⁴Hebrews 4.12 ⁵Romans 1.16 ⁶Romans 3.23 ⁷1 Peter 2.24-25

⁸Romans 5.8-11 ⁹Acts 16.30-31 ¹⁰1 Peter 5.1-5 ¹¹1 Timothy 3.1-7; Titus 1.5-9 ¹²Ephesians 2.11-22; 2 Corinthians 5.18-19 ¹³Acts 6.4

¹⁴Matthew 19.4-6 ¹⁵"catholic," in this context, refers to all those who belong to Jesus - the church universal, so to speak