

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Church at Alden Bridge

Section 1: The Word of God.

We believe the Bible to be the Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts, and our authority for faith and practice. We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Scriptures.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Section 2: The Trinity.

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, sharing the same nature and attributes.

(Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19)

Section 3: God the Father.

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit; perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

(John 16:23-27; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 1:3, 17-23)

Section 4: God the Son.

We believe in Jesus Christ, one of three in the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, God's unique Son, as the God-man born of a virgin, sinless in His life, that He died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a substitutionary sacrifice for us that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood and reconciled by His death that He not only died on the cross for our sins, but that He resurrected bodily for our justification; that He is now at the right hand of God the Father acting as our High Priest and our Advocate before the Father; that He is coming again in power to rapture His church by raising the dead and translating the living believers. He will establish His millennial kingdom on the earth to judge the world with commensurate rewards for the believers and punishment for the unbelievers

(John 1:1, 8:58; John 1:14; 3:16; Matthew 1:18-25; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; John 11:49-51; 18:14; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:10; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 3:21-30; 5:9-11; Romans 4:25; 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 10:12; Hebrews 3:1, 14-16; 5:6, 10; 8:1-2; 9:11-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 20:4-6; Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; John 5:28-29)

Section 5: God The Holy Spirit

We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, one of three in the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son and who exists in the world today to reveal the fullness of Christ, convicting the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment, regenerating, sanctifying and sealing forever those who have been born again through faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that no one can be saved from sin or be born again without a supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit in his life. We believe that no one can attach himself to the Body of Christ unless the Holy Spirit energizes that attachment.

(John 14:16-17; 15:26; Acts 2:32-33; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 15:26; John 15:8-11; John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 5:21-26; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30)

Section 6: Man

We believe God created man, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin. We further believe that man, because of his fall in Adam, is a sinner by nature and choice and is therefore spiritually dead, in need of salvation.

(Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 3:19; Romans 3:23, 5:12-21, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-9)

Section 7: Salvation

We believe that man is brought into a relationship with God by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by Christ on the cross, and is received by man through faith. Salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern.

(John 1:1-12; 3:3-7, 5:24; Romans 3:21-24, 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:5)

Section 8: The Church

A. The Universal Church of Jesus Christ consists of those who have personally believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who are born again, and baptized into His Body by the Holy Spirit. These believers constitute the Body or the Bride of Christ. This universal church consists of individual believers meeting and worshipping as groups of believers anywhere in the world. No one belongs to the church of Jesus Christ universal simply by virtue of belonging to a local Bible believing and Bible-preaching church. In spite of minor doctrinal differences and practices existing among local churches, members of the Body of Christ are to love, appreciate and bear the burdens of other Christians.

(Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7-10; 21:2; Hebrews 10:25; Revelation 5:9-10; John 15:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; Romans 15:1-7)

B. The Local Church. In the New Testament there were churches made up of individual believers who lived in certain areas, which constituted the church at Corinth, at Berea, at Philippi, etc. It is in this sense that The Church at Alden Bridge exists and is known as such. The local church is composed of born-again believers who have voluntarily united together for the purposes of worshipping God, ministering to the saints (fellow believers), evangelizing the world, and discipling new believers. It provides an opportunity for those who are of the same mind in Christ to meet together for the study of God's Word, common prayer, social contact and mutual uplifting. The Church at Alden Bridge will never seek to exclude from its more general fellowship other believers who may belong to other churches or denominations or who may differ from us in minor matters but nevertheless belong to the Body of Christ. We hereby declare that the criteria of receiving individuals into the membership of this church are only fallible and human. Every endeavor, however, shall be made in order that no one transferring from another church or by statement of faith, may be accepted into the membership of the church unless evidence is given that such a person honors the Lord Jesus Christ by voluntarily and circumspectly walking in the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, everyone indicating a desire to join this church shall be instructed accordingly that becoming a member of this church witnesses to the character of the whole body of believers known as The Church at Alden Bridge. Such a person should be thoroughly examined as to his or her profession of faith and holiness of character.

(Acts 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 9:2)

Section 9: Separation of Church and State

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life, and that each should be free to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience.

(Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1, 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 1 Peter 2:17)

Section 10: Christian Conduct

We believe that the supreme task of every believer is to glorify God in his life. The believer should live blamelessly before the world, be a faithful steward of his possessions, and seek to realize for himself the full stature of maturity in Christ.

(Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 1:28; 1 Timothy 6:6-9; 1 Peter 2:15-16)

Section 11: Last Things

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, the eternal conscious existence of all men either in heaven or hell, and in divine judgments, rewards, and punishments.

(John 5:29; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 15:51-58; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Revelation 19:20)