



Koinonia Statement of Faith

Article 1 – The Holy Scriptures

1-1 The Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the inspired,¹ infallible Word of God,² a divine revelation, the original writings of which were verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit.³ They are the supreme and final authority of faith and conduct.⁴

1-2 Inspiration is a special act of the Holy Spirit³ by which He guided the writers of the Scriptures so that their words would convey the thoughts He wished conveyed, would bear a proper relationship to the thoughts of the other inspired books, and would be kept free from error of fact, doctrine, and judgment.⁵

1-3 The Holy Scriptures, the written Word of God, are composed of all 66 books of the Old Testament and New Testament.

¹And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2Tim.3:15-17).

²Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens (Psa.119:89). If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken— (John 10:35). The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever (Isa.40:8).

³For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2Pe.1:21). Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow (1Pe.1:10,11). We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words (1Cor.2:12,13).

⁴Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth (John 17:17). And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" (Luke 24:27,44). I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book (Rev.22:18,19).

⁵"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished (Mat.5:17,18).

Article 2 – The Trinity

2-1 There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son,¹ and the Holy Spirit.² These three are one God,³ the same in substance, eternally equal in power and glory.

¹ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased” (Mat.3:16,17). Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).

² Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God” (Acts 5:3,4).

³ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground” (Gen.1:1,26). Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mat.28:19). May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2Cor.13:14).

Article 3 – God The Father

3-1 There is but one living and true God,¹ immanent, transcendent, infinite in being and perfection, pure spirit,² invisible, immutable,³ eternal, almighty, all wise,⁴ most holy, most free, most loving, most gracious, most merciful, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin,⁵ the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him, and withal most just and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin. He will by no means clear the guilty.

¹ I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other (Isa.45:5,6).

² God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

³ I the LORD do not change (Mal.3:6a).

⁴ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” (Rom.11:33,34).

⁵ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation” (Exo.34:6,7).

Article 4 – God The Son

4-1 Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Word,¹ the eternal and true God who is of one substance and equal with the Father.² He took on Himself man's nature, with all of its essential properties except sin: Being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary,³ He embodied two perfect and distinct natures in one person. He is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man.

4-2 The Lord Jesus Christ is the revelation of God to man.⁴ In the days of His humiliation He lived a sinless life, performed miracles, taught the will of God,⁵ was crucified, and died. He was buried and arose bodily from the dead on the third day. The Lord Jesus offered Himself a sacrifice for sins,⁶ satisfied the justice of the Father, propitiated the wrath of God, reconciled God and man,⁷ and obtained an eternal inheritance.

4-3 The Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, from whence He had come, and was exalted, taking His place at the right hand of the Father, where He makes intercession on behalf of all who come to God through Him.⁸

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-3,14).

² He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Col.1:15-20).

³ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us" (Mat.1:22,23).

⁴ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs (Heb.1:1-4).

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil.2:5-11).

⁶ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered

himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Heb.9:14).

⁷ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (Rom.5:10).

⁸ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin (Heb.4:14,15).

Article 5 – God the Holy Spirit

5-1 The eternal¹ Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son,² is of the same substance and equal in power and glory with the Father and the Son. By Him the prophets were moved to speak the Word of God, and all writers of the Holy Scriptures were inspired to record infallibly the mind and will of God.³ He is the only efficient agent in the application of redemption. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment,⁴ moves them to repentance, and regenerates⁵ them by His grace, enabling them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith.

5-2 The Holy Spirit indwells all true believers, baptizing them into one body, of which Christ is the head.⁶ He, the divine Comforter, Intercessor, and Advocate, empowers the believer for service.⁷

¹ Who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God (Heb.9:14b).

² And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you (John 14:16,26).

³ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2Pe.1:21).

⁴ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned (John 16:7-11).

⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit (John 3:5).

⁶ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink (1Cor.12:13).

⁷ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Article 6 – Creation

6-1 The triune God, according to His sovereign will, created out of nothing and out of things that He had made, by immediate and mediate action, the worlds and all that is in

them.¹ He is the Governor and Upholder of the creation by His wisdom and by the word of His mighty power.²

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters (Gen.1:1,2). (See also Gen.1:3-2:3). By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible (Heb.11:3).

² For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Col.1:16,17).

Article 7 – Man

7-1 God, by a special, instantaneous act, created man in His image¹ — holy, righteous, and possessing true knowledge² — by forming him out of the dust of the earth and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus man became a living soul.

7-2 Our first parents did not remain in the glorious and happy state of their original creation, but, through the subtlety and deception of the devil,³ they disobeyed and transgressed the command of God the creator, incurring on themselves and their posterity the sentence of spiritual and physical death. The guilt and consequences of Adam's sin are imputed to the whole human race, so that all men are guilty,⁴ inherently corrupt, totally depraved,⁵ and subjects of the wrath of God.⁶

¹ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Gen.1:27).

² And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph.4:24). And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator (Col.3:10). (See also Psa.8:4-6).

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it (Gen.3:1-6).

⁴ Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many

trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men (Rom.5:12-18).

⁵ There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes. (Rom.3:11-18).

⁶ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Eph.2:3). (See also Rom.1:18)

Article 8 – Sin

8-1 Sin is any lack of conformity to the will of God¹ or any transgression of the law of God.² Sin separates man from God, incurring His wrath and judgment, and is manifest in the selfishness, rebellion, unbelief and total depravity of man's being.³ Sin is the cause of the curse on and defilement of the created universe.⁴

¹ All wrongdoing is sin (1Jo.5:17a). Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins (James 4:17).

² Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness (1Jo.3:4). For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it (James 2:10).

³ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air ... All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Eph.2:1-3). The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened (Rom.1:18-21). (See also Rom. 3:10-12, 8:7-8).

⁴ We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time (Rom.8:22). (See also Gen.3:17,18).

Article 9 – Human Ability and Responsibility

9-1 In his original creation man was endowed with the ability to will and do good or evil and was accountable for his willing and doing.¹ But through the fall of Adam man lost his ability, apart from God's grace,² to will and to do those things necessary for a right relationship with God;³ however, he is still accountable to God for obedience to all of His

commands.⁴ Man has not lost his ability to make decisions,⁵ but left to himself, he acts only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature.⁶

9-2 Only by God's infinite grace can man will or do anything necessary to his salvation.⁷ By that grace, God saves those men whom He causes to will and to do good;⁸ however, He does this without nullifying man's ability to act responsibly.⁹

¹ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen.2:16,17).

² As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Eph.2:1-3).

³ There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God (Rom.3:11). Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God (Rom.8:8).

⁴ God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Rom.2:6-10). In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

⁵ Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live (Deu.30:11,19).

⁶ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Rom.3:10,12). Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil (Jer.13:23). (See also footnote 2).

⁷ It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy (Rom.9:16).

⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created (James 1:18). Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God (John 1:12-13).

⁹ Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose (Phil.2:12,13).

Article 10 – Election

10-1 Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity,¹ for reasons known only to Himself,² and apart from any foreseen faith and/or goodness found in man,³ He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation, that they might be conformed to Christ's image.⁴ Those so chosen He redeemed by His Son⁵ and seals by His Spirit.⁶

¹ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will (Eph.1:4,11).

² “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” (Mat.11:27).

³ Who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2Tim.1:9). For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified (Rom.8:29-30).

⁴ Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph.4:13).

⁵ But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth (2 Thes.2:13).

⁶ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit (Eph.1:13).

Article 11 – Salvation

11-1 Salvation is the work of God¹ in which He reconciles fallen men to Himself,² ultimately removes the consequences of the curse,³ and bestows upon His redeemed Creation⁴ the riches of His grace, all to His glory.⁵

11-2 Salvation is offered in the gospel to all men⁶ and is accomplished in all the elect.⁷ It is received by grace through faith and the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit,⁸ apart from works or human merit.⁹ Salvation centers in a person, Jesus Christ, and receiving Him¹⁰ includes the remission of sins on the grounds of His shed blood on the cross,¹¹ the imputation of His perfect righteousness,¹² the reception of the Holy Spirit,¹³ and the impartation of eternal life.¹⁴

¹ Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them (Heb.7:25). (See also Eph.2:4-5, 8-9).

² Through Him to reconcile all things to Himself . . . (Col.1:20). For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! (Rom.5:10).

³ No longer will there be any curse (Rev.22:3).

⁴ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he

already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently (Rom.8:18-25).

⁵ I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more (Isa.43:25).

⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away (John 6:37). No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:44). For you granted him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those you have given him (John 17:2). When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all those who were appointed for eternal life believed (Acts 13:48).

⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).

⁹ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast (Eph.2:8,9).

¹⁰ Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

¹¹ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (Eph.1:7).

¹² It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Cor.1:30).

¹³ And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ (Rom.8:9b).

¹⁴ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1Jn.5:11, 12).

Article 12 – Repentance

12-1 Repentance unto life is a gift of God¹ and a voluntary act of man,² accomplished by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. Repentance consists in a knowledge of sin,³ a sense of guilt and corruption that results in the confession and forsaking of sin and a turning to God⁴ that results in loving, obedient service.⁵

¹ Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance (Rom.2:4)? When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life"(Acts 11:18). . . . correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of truth ... (2Tim.2:25 ESV).

² And repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

³ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).

⁴ For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God (1 Thes. 1:9).

⁵ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph.2:10). We continually remember before our God and

Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes.1:3).

Article 13 – Regeneration

13-1 Regeneration, or the New Birth,¹ is an instantaneous creative act of God through the agency of the Holy Spirit,² whereby divine life is imparted to those dead in sin, making them members of the family of God.³

¹ In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ (John 3:3,6,7). For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God (1Pe.1:23).

² He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

³ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God (John 1:11-13). Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2Cor.5:17). He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created (James 1:18).

Article 14 – Justification

14-1 Justification is the act of God’s grace whereby the sinner is declared righteous solely through faith¹ in the redemptive work of Christ.² By this action the righteousness of Christ is imputed,³ sin is pardoned, and the sinner is restored to divine favor.⁴

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God (Rom.5:1,2). Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses (Acts 13:39).

² Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us (Rom.8:33,34).

³ Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men (Rom.5:18). God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2Cor.5:21).

⁴ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon (Isa.55:7).

Article 15 – Sanctification

15-1 Sanctification is a progressive work of the Holy Spirit in the believer¹ that purifies the life² and conforms the whole man to the image of Christ as the Word of God is believed and obeyed.³ It begins at regeneration,⁴ continues throughout the believer's life⁵ on earth, and reaches its completion at the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁶

¹ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit (2Cor.3:18).

² It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality (1Thes.4:3).

³ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth (John 17:17).

⁴ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God (1Cor.6:11).

⁵ And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold (Eph.4:24,26,27).

⁶ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1Thes.5:23).