

# Proposed Changes – March 2021

## Proposed changes in Red

### Articles of Faith Community Bible Church Easley, South Carolina

The statement of faith which this church will embrace, preach, and defend is concisely set forth as follows:

#### ARTICLE I- THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testaments to be the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and completed Word of God in the original writings. They are the final authority for truth, wisdom, life, and morality. For purposes of CBC's official doctrine, practice, and policy, our Pastors are CBC's final authority on the Bible's interpretation and application. II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Ptr 1:20, 21; Isa. 8:20; Ps. 119:105; Rev. 22:19, Jn. 17:17, Titus 1:7-9.

#### ARTICLE II - THE GODHEAD

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - co-equal in power and glory. Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 10.

**God the Father** -We believe that God the Father is God; that He is merciful, and just; that He is perfectly holy, righteous, and true; that He is eternally existent, glorious in nature, possessing the unique attributes of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence; and that He, in harmony with His divine office, loves, provides, and protects, thus exercising providential care over the mankind, and especially a fatherly care over all believers. Matt. 28:19; Gen. 17:1; Matt. 19:26; Ps. 19:9; Isa. 6:3; Ps. 100:5; Prov. 15:3; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-14; Ps. 103:13; Matt. 6:25-30; Matt. 10:29-31; Matt. 7:11.

### **ARTICLE III - THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of Mary, who was a virgin, that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. John 1:1, 2; John 1:14; Luke 1:35; Colossians 1:13-20. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His perfect, sinless life and His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice – the shedding of His blood, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead, and that Christ is ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God. Acts 1:9; Romans 3:24, 25; Hebrews 9:24; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth at an hour known only to God, and that because the time of His coming is hidden, believers should live in a state and attitude of constant readiness for His return. Titus 2:11-15; John 14:3; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

### **ARTICLE IV - THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and that He indwells the souls of all believers, sealing them unto the day of redemption. John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12, 13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13, 14.

We believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates the heart of the unbeliever, giving him spiritual life. John 3:6-7; Ephesians 2:1-5; Titus 3:5.

We believe that He is the divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth, speaking through the Scriptures, and that it is the privilege as well as the duty of all believers to be obedient to and controlled by the Spirit. John 16:13; Ephesians 5:18.

We believe that the Holy Spirit gives various gifts to every believer for the express purpose of building up the body of Christ to the unity of the faith and to spiritual maturity. I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-16.

We believe sanctification by the Holy Spirit to be the work of God's free grace, whereby the whole person is being renewed after the image of God, and is enabled more and more to live unto righteousness and true holiness and to die to sin. Ephesians 4:23, 24; Romans 6:6; 6:14; 8:4; II Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14.

#### **ARTICLE V - CREATION**

We believe that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the beginning, by the word of His power, made out of nothing the heavens and the earth and created life within the space of six days, and all very good. Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11; Jeremiah 10:12; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17.

#### **ARTICLE VI - THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN**

We believe that Satan is a literal being, influential in Adam's sin, and currently blinding the eyes of the unbeliever; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Job 1:6, 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10.

#### **ARTICLE VII - THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in the image of God without sin, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. We believe that man while still bearing the image of God is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition, and that the whole person (mind, will and emotions) has been permeated with sin. Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:22, 23 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that whom God calls to Himself, He also justifies. Justification is an objective, legal declaration by God that the believer's sin has been transferred to Jesus Christ, and that Christ's righteousness has been imputed to the believer - thus declaring him right with God. Therefore, we believe that salvation is a gift of God, apart from works, and that the believer's righteousness resides in Christ alone, by faith alone. Romans 4:5-7, 5:1, 19; Acts 10:43; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:3-4, 7; 2:8-10; Galatians 2:20; Romans 3:22-25.

## **ARTICLE IX – FAITH AND REPENTANCE**

We believe that faith is a gift of God to the believer enabling him to accept, receive and rest on Christ during trials and difficulties, and for eternal hope through His promises. Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:8-9; I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 11:1-2; Acts 15:11, 16:31; Galatians 2:20; I Peter 1:3-5.

We believe that repentance is a gift of God whereby the unbeliever realizes the hideous nature of his sin before a holy God, turns from sin, and begins to walk with Christ through obedience. Acts 11:18; II Timothy 2:25; Luke 13:3, 24:46-47; I John 2:3.

We believe that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given. It is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God when the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation. John 3:3-7; 5:24; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 10:15.

## **ARTICLE X – GOOD WORKS**

We believe good works to be a necessary manifestation and fruit of a living faith. They do not bring justification, nor do they evoke any obligatory blessing from God. James 2:18, 22; John 15:4-5; Philippians 2:13; Luke 17:10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 5:22-23.

## **ARTICLE XI – ADOPTION**

We believe the believer, being made righteous in God's sight by justification through faith in Christ, is then adopted into the family of God. While justification relates to the believer's relation to the Law, adoption relates to one's personal relationship with God. Ephesians 1:4-5; Galatians 4:4-6; Romans 8:15-16, 23.

Because of the believer's adoption the believer is sealed by the Holy Spirit making him a child of God and co-heir with Christ and now he may approach God boldly and without fear. Romans 8:17, 29; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 4:6; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-22.

## **ARTICLE XII – SANCTIFICATION**

We believe the believer is liberated from sin's dominion, and is freed to obey his new Master, Jesus Christ. However, there remains some measure of corruption from the old life with which the new believer must constantly battle.

We believe progressive sanctification in the Holy Spirit to be the work of God's free grace, whereby the believer is renewed in the whole person after the likeness of Christ, and he is enabled more and more to live unto righteousness and true holiness in Christ. Ephesians 4:22 - 24; Romans 6:6; 6:14; 7:4-6; 8:4, 28-30; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:24; 4:1-2.

### **ARTICLE XIII - THE ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS**

We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the witness of God's Word. While it is possible for a time, a true believer may have his assurance shaken by neglecting his walk with God and yielding to sin. He should not despair in this state, but rather pray earnestly that the Spirit may witness with his that he is in Christ, and be diligent to make his calling and election sure. Psalm 51:8, 12, 13; John 6:39-40; 10:7-18, 28; Romans 8:35, 38-39; Phil 1:6; Ephesians 4:30; 1 John 5:13.

We do however believe that every true believer will continue in faith till the end. And therefore any professing believer whose faith is shaken and who continues in unbelief indefinitely demonstrates that his profession may not have been genuine. It is the obligation of every believer to call such a person to repentance and true faith in Christ. Matthew 7:21-23; 22; 2 Corinthians 13:5; James 2:14, 17, 24; Revelation 3:5, 2:7, 2:11, 2:26, 3:12, 3:21.

### **ARTICLE XIV - THE CHURCH**

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, where believers under the leadership of biblically qualified Elders grow in grace through the regular teaching of the Scriptures, the taking of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, the mutual ministry of spiritually gifted believers as they build one another up in Christ and the maintaining of purity through biblically administered

church discipline. The local church is the visible representation of the body of Christ on the earth, and its members exist to display the grace of God in their community for the salvation of the lost and for the glory of Christ on earth till He returns. Matthew 18:15-22; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 5; 12:12-13; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 10:23-25; I Peter 5:1-4.

### **ARTICLE XV - MARRIAGE**

We believe that marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman before God (Mal. 2:14). As such, the ceremony is an act of worship of the Creator for the blessing of marriage (Prov. 18:22; 19:14). Wedding in the church are worship services. **We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female (as defined by chromosomes). These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27).**

**We believe the term *marriage* has only one meaning: the uniting of one male and one female in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that marriage between one male and one female, for life, uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph. 5:21-33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a male and a female who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage. Any sexual activity outside of marriage is contrary to God's character and nature as defined in Scriptures.**

### **Article XVI Sanctity and dignity of Human Life**

**We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. (Ps. 139)**

**We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Community Bible Church.**

