

1 Mountain View Mennonite Church
2 STATEMENT OF FAITH/THEOLOGY
3 April 27, 2016
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5 *Our Statement of Faith serves the church by providing a fundamental understanding of our*
6 *approach to Scripture. It is not intended to take the place of the Bible, but is subject to it. It is*
7 *presented to help both those within and outside the church to become better acquainted with our*
8 *beliefs and practices in a brief format. This statement is meant to encourage us always to hold*
9 *fast to God's Word as being inspired and breathed by His Spirit. Never do we place this*
10 *statement in a higher position than God's Word. Furthermore, we believe that in order to carry*
11 *on the religious mission of the church, to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the*
12 *local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the*
13 *community, it is imperative that all persons who associate with the church as members should*
14 *abide by and agree to the following statements. We invite members to share in our understanding*
15 *of what it means to follow Christ.*
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19 **1. The Inspiration of Scripture:** We believe that all Scripture is inspired by God through the
20 Holy Spirit and is without error in all the original manuscripts. God who is Himself Truth has
21 inspired Holy Scripture as a revelation of Himself and a witness to His truthfulness. We accept
22 the entire Bible, both Old and New Testament, as the Word of God and the final authority for
23 faith and practice. We believe that there is no contradiction to these Scriptures and to the
24 revealed character of God. We believe that Scripture reveals the principles by which God judges
25 us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union,
26 and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be
27 tried.
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29 *Psalm 19:7-9 ~ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is*
30 *sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the*
31 *commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring*
32 *forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. Proverbs 30:5 ~ Every word*
33 *of God proves true. II Timothy 3:16 ~ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for*
34 *teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training.*
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38 **2. The Triune God:** We believe in the triune God: that God exists in three persons, God the
39 Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, infinite in all their attributes. Although God the
40 Son and God the Spirit are equal to God the Father in deity, the Son and the Spirit do nothing
41 except what is in the will of, and in harmony with God the Father. The eternal triune God
42 reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but
43 without division of nature, essence, or being. God is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all
44 wise. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections and His perfect knowledge extends to
45 all things, past, present, and future.
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47 *John 20:21-22 ~ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even*
48 *so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,*
49 *"Receive the Holy Spirit". II Corinthians 13:14 ~ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the*

50 love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Hebrews 13:8** ~ Jesus Christ
51 is the same yesterday and today and forever.

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55 **3. Jesus Christ:** We believe in the Deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His bodily resurrection and
56 that He is coming again for His Bride the Church. We believe Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
57 became a human being as fully God while fully man. He is the only Savior of the world. He
58 made salvation possible by His substitutionary and atoning death on the cross for all who believe
59 in Him and strive to follow Him as Lord of their daily lives.

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61 Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy
62 Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon
63 Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with
64 mankind, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His
65 substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He
66 was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who
67 was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right
68 hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the
69 reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to
70 consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever
71 present Lord.

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73 **Genesis** 18:1ff.; **Psalms** 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; **Isaiah** 7:14; 53; **Matthew** 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27;
74 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; **Mark** 1:1; 3:11; **Luke** 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; **John 1:1-**
75 **18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts** 1:9;
76 **2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans** 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; **1 Corinthians** 1:30;
77 **2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians** 5:19-21; 8:9; **Galatians** 4:4-5; **Ephesians** 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-
78 **10; Philippians** 2:5-11; **Colossians** 1:13-22; 2:9; **1 Thessalonians** 4:14-18; **1 Timothy** 2:5-6;
79 **3:16; Titus** 2:13-14; **Hebrews** 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; **1 Peter** 2:21-
80 **25; 3:22; 1 John** 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; **2 John** 7-9; **Revelation** 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11;
81 **13:8; 19:16.**

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84 **John 1:1 and 1:14** ~ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word
85 was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory
86 as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **2 Corinthians 5:21** ~ For our sake he
87 made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
88 **1 Peter 3:18** ~ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he
89 might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. **John 14:6** ~
90 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except
91 through me. **1 Timothy 2:5** ~ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and
92 men, the man Christ Jesus...

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96 **4. The Holy Spirit:** We believe in the Holy Spirit who empowers the true church. The Holy
97 Spirit indwells believers the moment they accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and
98 transforms them more and more into the nature of Jesus Christ as they yield to His Lordship.
99 Completion of this transformation will be at Christ's return.

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101 The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the
102 Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He
103 convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects

104 regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ.
105 He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which
106 they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His
107 presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the
108 stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship,
109 evangelism, and service.

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111 **Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32;**
112 **Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12;**
113 **24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39;**
114 **10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16;**
115 **12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy**
116 **3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation**
117 **1:10; 22:17.**

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120 **Acts 1:8** ~ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be
121 my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **II**
122 **Corinthians 3:18** ~ We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being
123 transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the
124 Lord who is the Spirit. **Ephesians 3:16-19** ~ According to the riches of his (*God the Father's*)
125 glory may he grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so
126 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
127 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height
128 and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with
129 all the fullness of God.

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133 **5. Salvation:** We believe in salvation by "Grace" and that we are accounted righteous before
134 God only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ alone. (**Eph. 2:8**)

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136 Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who accept
137 Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the
138 believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and
139 glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

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141 Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new
142 creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of
143 sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
144 Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

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146 Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and
147 commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

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149 Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all
150 sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of
151 peace and favor with God.

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153 Sanctification is the experience, beginning with regeneration, through which the believer is set
154 apart for God's purposes. Regeneration then enables the believer to progress in spiritual maturity
155 through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Growth in Christ should continue throughout
156 the regenerated person's life.

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158 Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the
159 redeemed.

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161 **Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-**
162 **69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12;**
163 **15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-**
164 **18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20;**
165 **Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13;**
166 **Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews**
167 **2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11;**
168 **Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.**

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170 **Ephesians 2:4-9** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved
171 us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace
172 you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly
173 places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his
174 grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith.
175 And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may
176 boast.

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180 **6. Baptism and the Fruit of the Spirit:** We believe that the baptism of believers with water is a
181 sign of their cleansing from sin and their commitment to serve Christ and others in accordance
182 with the spiritual gifts God has given them. We believe that believers are baptized with the Holy
183 Spirit the moment they accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and are not to grieve or resist His
184 promptings. We believe that baptism by water, whatever the mode, is indicative of one's
185 repentance, and forgiveness of sin. It is also viewed as one's willingness to participate in the life
186 of the church while giving and receiving the care, counsel and encouragement of other believers.
187 It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour,
188 the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of
189 life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. The Holy
190 Spirit helps believers to rightly understand the Word of God and live by the fruit of the Spirit.

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192 **Matthew 28:19-20** ~ (Jesus said), "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the
193 name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have
194 commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **Romans 6:3-4** ~
195 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his
196 death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was
197 raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. I
198 **Corinthians 2:9-11** ~ What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what
199 God has prepared for those who love him—these things God has revealed to us through the
200 Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's
201 thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the
202 thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **I Corinthians 12:13** ~ In one Spirit we were all
203 baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one
204 Spirit. **Ephesians 4:30** ~ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for
205 the day of redemption.

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7. Church Membership: We believe that the church is composed of imperfect persons who strive to live by all that God has graced them with "in Christ". We believe the church is to regularly preach the gospel and proclaim the Word of God to a lost and dying world. The church is also to help the needy in the name of Christ. The church is responsible to discipline members who go astray. The purer the church, the more it will be in contrast to the world and thus a better witness to the world. We believe that while church membership is not synonymous to salvation that it is essential to one's spiritual growth and in keeping with Christ's commandment to assemble together. We view church membership as a voluntary covenant and commitment to the body of Christ where one should use the gifts and talents given by God for the edification of other believers and for the building up of God's Kingdom, in obedience to Christ's command to "go ...and make disciples of all nations."

Romans 1:16 ~ I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **Galatians 6:2** ~ Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **Ephesians 2:4-6** ~ God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. **II Timothy 4:2-3** ~ Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching.

8. Stewardship and Giving: We believe that Christians should learn good money management. We believe everything belongs to God, who calls us to live in faithful stewardship of all that He has entrusted to us. Both time and money should be spent in ways that honor the Lord, and giving to the church, its ministry and mission, should be a joyful privilege. Mutual aid within the congregation gives tangible evidence of the love of Christ.

Proverbs 11:24 ~ One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. **Acts 6:1** ~ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. **II Corinthians 9:7** ~ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **II Corinthians 9:10** ~ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. **I John 3:17** ~ If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him.

9. Creation and Sin: We believe that the triune God through the Son created the heavens and the earth and He sustains the entire universe by His mighty power. Creation was originally good, but when Adam and Eve sinned, all creation suffered the consequence, and to this day is under a curse. In this fallen world we cannot expect permanent peace among people, and absolute

253 harmony in all of nature. We believe in the creation account as given in Genesis 1 and that God
254 called into being the universe as an expression of His love and power.

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256 **Genesis 1:1-2** ~ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without
257 form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering
258 over the face of the waters. **Genesis 1:31** ~ God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it
259 was very good. **John 1:1** ~ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
260 Word was God. **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... **Romans**
261 **8:19** ~ The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **Colossians**
262 **1:16-17** ~ By him (*Jesus Christ*) all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and
263 invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through
264 him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

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268 **10. Eternal Destiny:** We place our hope in the fulfillment of God's promises when Jesus Christ
269 will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. The Bible teaches that every human
270 being will end up in one of two destinations --- eternal torment or eternal paradise (heaven). To
271 have everlasting joy and peace one must respond positively in this life to the gospel of Jesus
272 Christ, who alone is able to assure one of life with Him in heaven. Procrastination in trusting
273 and obeying the LORD is the devil's suggestion.

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275 **Matthew 25:31-34, 41, and 46** ~ When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels
276 with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and
277 he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And
278 he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on
279 his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from
280 the foundation of the world." Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed,
281 into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." And these will go away into eternal
282 punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. **II Corinthians 5:21** ~ For our sake he (God)
283 made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
284 **II Corinthians 6:2** ~ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

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288 **11. Kingdom Citizens:** We believe that work is honorable and that Christians should be among
289 the best citizens by living lives that demonstrate respect for everyone and living a life of honesty,
290 integrity, dependability, orderliness, and creation care. As Christians we are to do all in our
291 power to be at peace with everyone, promote justice, and reconciliation. We also believe that
292 God has ordained governments and uses them in ways that might be viewed by us as both good
293 and evil. The police, military, and other persons in positions of power are ultimately responsible
294 to God for their actions/decisions. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of
295 Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God.
296 The church should not resort to the civil power(s) to carry on its work. We believe in respecting
297 authorities, paying taxes, and only refusing to obey the laws of government if they violate our
298 primary allegiance and loyalty to God and His Word. Christian people throughout the world
299 should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace. All Christians are under obligation to seek to
300 make the will of Christ supreme in their own lives and in society.

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302 **Romans 13:1-2** ~ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no
303 authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever
304 resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.
305 **Romans 13:6-7** ~ Pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God. Pay to all what is owed to
306 them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect
307 is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. **Titus 3:1-2** ~ Be submissive to rulers and authorities, to
308 be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be
309 gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

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312 **12. The Lord's Supper:** We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sign by which the church
313 thankfully remembers the new covenant which Jesus established by His death and confirmed by
314 His resurrection. Communion is to be observed as a reminder that believers need the continual
315 righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to their lives. Communion is also a time to celebrate the
316 true believers fellowship and oneness in Christ. Communion was instituted by Christ for
317 believers in Him. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the
318 church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the
319 Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

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322 **I Corinthians 10:17** ~ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all
323 partake of the one bread. **I Corinthians 11:23-26** ~ The Lord Jesus on the night when he was
324 betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body
325 which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after
326 supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in
327 remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the
328 Lord's death until he comes.

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330 Although Feet Washing is not viewed as a part of the Lord's Supper, we believe the observance
331 is valued and meaningful. Luke points out in (22:24) that the disciples were arguing about who
332 was the greatest among them, an attitude that precludes a willingness to stoop to wash feet.
333 When Jesus moved to wash their feet (see also **John 13:1-16**), they were shocked. His actions
334 serve as a model of Christian humility (vs. 12-17). By washing His disciples' feet, Jesus taught
335 the lesson of selfless service that was supremely exemplified by His death on the cross.

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339 **13. Sexual Activity and Marriage:** We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates
340 each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the
341 image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God
342 within that person. We believe that God has created human beings in the divine image, and thus
343 all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. God made only two sexes, male and
344 female, and He ordained men to be the head of the home and the leaders of the church. Women
345 are equal in importance with men, but differ in role and responsibility. God intends human life
346 to begin in families and to be blessed through families. God's will is for marriage to be the
347 lifelong covenant of one man and one woman. Any sexual activity outside of the marriage of
348 one man and one woman is sinful. Parents are to be an example of devotion to the Lord and
349 have the primary responsibility to teach and train their children according to God's directives.
350 We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one
351 woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends
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353 sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We
354 believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual
355 behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to
356 God. (**Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.**)

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358 We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity.
359 Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individuals are to be repudiated
360 and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of Mountain View. (**Mark 12:28-31; Luke**
361 **6:31.**)

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363 **Genesis 1:27** ~ God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male
364 and female he created them. **Matthew 18:15-17** ~ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell
365 him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But
366 if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established
367 by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And
368 if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
369 **Matthew 19:5-6** ~ A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the
370 two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has
371 joined together, let not man separate. **I Corinthians 11:3** ~ I want you to understand that the
372 head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.
373 **Ephesians 5:3** ~ Sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named
374 among you, as is proper among saints. **Ephesians 6:4** ~ Fathers, do not provoke your children
375 to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **Titus 1:5-6** ~ Appoint
376 elders in every town as I directed you— if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife,
377 and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.

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380 **14. Stewardship:** God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and
381 are we owe to Him. As Christians we are indebted to Christ to be good stewards of our
382 possessions. Therefore, we are to serve Christ, the Church and fellow Christians with our time,
383 talents, and material possessions. We should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the
384 glory of God and for helping each other. According to the Scriptures, Christians should
385 contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for
386 the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

387
388 **Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21;**
389 **19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35;**
390 **Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15;**
391 **Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.**

392
393
394 **15. The Family:** God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of society. It is
395 composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

396
397 Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is
398 God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man

399 and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual
400 expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

401
402 The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The
403 marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as
404 Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to
405 lead his family. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the
406 Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach
407 their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example
408 and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey
409 their parents.

410
411 **Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel**
412 **1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4;**
413 **13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9;**
414 **Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1**
415 **Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2**
416 **Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.**

417
418
419 **16. Discipline in the Church:** Church discipline is the biblical process of confrontation and
420 correction. The Pastor(s) along with the Church Council have a special responsibility to give
421 guidance and to carry out discipline in the life of the church. They are to exercise their
422 responsibility lovingly, and in gentleness of spirit. Church discipline is meant specifically for
423 members involved in overt sin. Scripture gives particular emphasis to Christians engaged in
424 matters of sexual immorality, those creating discord or strife between members of the body of
425 Christ, those spreading false teachings, and believers in outspoken rebellion to the spiritual
426 authorities appointed by God in the church. (Acts 20:28-31; Tit. 1:5-11; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb.
427 13:17).

428
429 The church has been given authority to discern right and wrong and to forgive sins when there is
430 repentance or to retain sins when there is no repentance. When becoming members of the
431 church, believers therefore commit themselves to give and receive counsel within the faith
432 community on important matters of doctrine and conduct. (Matthew 16:19)

433
434 We know that the Lord disciplines his children. We see that He passes this responsibility on to
435 the church family. (1 Corinthians 5:12-13, Hebrews 12:6)

436
437 Another vital reason for church discipline is to maintain the testimony of the church.
438 Unbelievers are watching our lives. We are to be a light in a dark world, a city set on a hill. If the
439 church looks no different than the world, then it loses its witness. (Matthew 5:14-16)

440
441 While church discipline is never easy or desirable—what parent enjoys disciplining a child?—it
442 is necessary for the church to fulfill its God-intended purpose.

443

444 The goal of church discipline is not to punish a failing brother or sister in Christ. On the contrary,
445 the purpose is to bring the person to a point of godly sorrow and repentance, so that he or she
446 turns away from sin and experiences a fully restored relationship with God and other believers.
447 Individually, the intent is healing and restoration, but corporately the purpose is to build up, or
448 edify and strengthen the entire body of Christ.

449
450 God desires his people to be pure. He calls us to live holy lives, set apart for his glory. (1 Peter
451 1:16 restates Leviticus 11:44: "Be holy, because I am holy." If we ignore blatant sinfulness
452 within the body of Christ, then we fail to honor the Lord's call to be holy and live for his glory.

453
454 Matthew 18:15-17 clearly and specifically sets forth the practical steps for confronting and
455 correcting a wayward believer.

456
457 1. First, one believer (usually the offended person) will meet individually with the other
458 believer to point out the offense. If the brother or sister listens and confesses, the matter is
459 resolved.

460 2. Second, if the one-on-one meeting is unsuccessful, the offended person will attempt to
461 meet with the believer again, taking with him/her the Pastor and one or two other
462 members of the church. This allows the confrontation of sin and resulting correction to be
463 confirmed by two or three witnesses.

464 3. Third, if the person still refuses to listen and change his/her behavior, the matter is to be
465 taken before the entire congregation. The whole church body will publicly confront the
466 believer and encourage him/her to repent.

467 4. Lastly, if all attempts to discipline the believer fail to bring change and repentance, the
468 person will be removed from the fellowship of the church.

469 Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 5:5 that this final step in church discipline is a way of handing the
470 unrepentant brother/sister "over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be
471 saved on the day of the Lord."

472
473 (Matt. 5:14-18; Matt. 18:15-22; John 20:21-23; Gal. 6:1-2; Deut. 19:15; Eph. 4:15; 1 Cor. 5:3-5;
474 2 Cor. 2:5-11; Rom. 2:21)

475
476 17. **The Sanctity of Human Life:** We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God
477 in His image, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and
478 every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. (Psalms139.)

479 480 **In Conclusion**

481
482
483 This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the
484 inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality,
485 and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For

486 purposes of the church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Church Council and
487 active members of the congregation are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning
488 and application.

491 We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of our congregation as the local
492 Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the members and the community, it is
493 imperative that all persons employed in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and
494 abide by this Statement. **(Matthew 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22)**

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501 Signature of Council Chair: _____ Date Approved: ____/____/____

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505 Members of Church Council:

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Earl B. Monroe: Senior Pastor
Chad Hatter: Chair
Spencer Nice: Vice Chair
Mark Hodge: Youth Pastor
Peter J. McCarthy: Secretary
Douglas Harris: Treasurer
Randall Kiser: Administrator
Tracey Coffey: Sunday School Superintendent
Dean Hatter: Head Trustee
Jale Ramsey: Congregational appointee

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523 Revised 3/2/2016

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