

## **VISION STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH**

- The salvation of souls.
- The edification of Christians through the teaching of God's Word.
- The promotion of Godly worship.
- The defence of "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)
- The establishment and extension of Christian missions and institutions for the furtherance of God's Kingdom on earth
- The promotion of Christian relief for the poor and needy.
- The strengthening of mutual fellowship, encouragement, and unity among individual Bible-Presbyterian Churches in Australia and among other Bible-believing churches of similar stand "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:9).

## **DOCTRINAL BELIEFS, PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH**

### **DOCTRINAL BELIEFS**

- 1.1. The doctrine of the Church shall be in accordance with that system commonly called "the Reformed Faith" as expressed in the Confession of Faith as set forth by the historic Westminster Assembly together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.
- 1.2. In adopting the Confession of Faith the church declares:
  - 1.2.1. Its firm and glad belief in the reality and universality of the offer of the Gospel to mankind. We believe that Christ's atonement is sufficient for the sins of all, adapted to all, and is freely offered to all men in the Gospel. We believe that no man will be condemned except upon the ground of his sin.
  - 1.2.2. With regard to the salvation of those dying in infancy we do not regard our Confession as teaching or implying that any who die in infancy are lost.
- 1.3. In abbreviated form the chief tenets of the doctrine of Church, apart from the Apostles' Creed, shall be as follows:
  - 1.3.1. We believe in the divine, verbal, and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and, as the Word of God, the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
  - 1.3.2. We believe in one God, existing in three co-equal and co-eternal Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - 1.3.3. We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
  - 1.3.4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but sinned through the fall of Adam, thereby incurring not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God

and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and become sinners in thought, word, and deed.

- 1.3.5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died a propitiatory and expiatory death as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who repent of their sins and believe in Him are justified before God on the grounds of His shed blood.
- 1.3.6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His exaltation at the right hand of God, where He intercedes for us as our High Priest and Advocate.
- 1.3.7. We believe in the personal, visible, and premillennial return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to judge the world and bring peace to the nations.
- 1.3.8. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works, and that all who repent of their sins and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God.
- 1.3.9. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to convict and regenerate the sinner, and to indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- 1.3.10. We believe that Christ instituted the Sacrament of Baptism for believers and their children and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which sacraments shall be observed by His Church till He comes.
- 1.3.11. We believe in the eternal security, bodily resurrection, and eternal blessedness of the saved, and in the bodily resurrection and eternal conscious punishment of the lost.
- 1.3.12. We believe in the real, spiritual unity in Christ of all redeemed by His precious blood, and the necessity of faithfully maintaining the purity of the church in doctrine and life according to the Word of God and the principle and practice of Biblical separation from the apostasy of the day, being spearheaded by the Ecumenical Movement ( II Corinthians 6:14-18).

## **THE MAIN PRINCIPLE OF THE CHURCH**

- 1.1. The doctrine of separation from sin unto God is a fundamental principle of the Bible, one grievously ignored in many churches today.
- 1.2. This doctrine arises out of the holiness of God. Both the purity and righteousness of God (Luke 1:75) are involved. "Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:16; also 3:11; Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:2; II Corinthians 7:1.
- 1.3. The Bible does speak of co-operation ("be of one mind", "That they all may be one", "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord", II Corinthians 13:11; John 17:21; Hebrews 12:14; see also I Corinthians 12:25). However, Biblical co-operation is based upon TRUTH. It involves the united effort of God's people. This is not a co-operation born of a spirit of undiscerning pluralism, or that of seeking "truth" in all religions.
- 1.4. We maintain that Scripture teaches a separation that is based on the holiness of God, producing purity in all of life, personal and ecclesiastical.
- 1.5. It is the duty of all true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ to make a clear testimony to their faith in Him, especially in these darkening days of apostasy in many professing churches, by which apostasy whole denominations in their official capacity, as well as individual churches, have been swept into a

paganising stream of modernism under various names and in varying degrees.

- 1.6. There has been a notable growth of autocratic domination on the part especially of modernistic leaders by whom the rightful powers of true churches are often usurped and are now being usurped.
- 1.7. The commands of God to His people to be separate from all unbelief and corruption are clear and positive: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (II Corinthians 6:14; see also Matthew 6:24; Romans 16:17; Galatians 1; Ephesians 5:11; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14; II Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 3:10; II Peter 2:1-3; I John 4:1-3; II John 7-11; Jude 3, 20-24; and Revelation 18:4). We reach out to those who are part of any human system which involves compromise with error, and who thus ought to “come out from among them”, and separate themselves unto the “Father...the Lord Almighty”, thus “cleansing themselves” and perfecting holiness in the fear of God (II Corinthians 6:17, 18; 7:1).
- 1.8. In loyalty to the revealed Word we, as an organised portion of the people of God, are obliged to oppose all forms of modernism, cultism, Romanism, and false religions. Dialogue for the purpose of reaching a compromise between all true Bible believers and representatives of such beliefs is impious, unbiblical, treasonous, and unfaithful to the Holy God, as He has revealed Himself to us in His infallible, inerrant Word.
- 1.9. We are opposed to all efforts to obscure or wipe out the clear line of separation between absolutes: truth and error, light and darkness. See Jeremiah 5:20; II Corinthians 6:14-18. We refer to such efforts by Neoevangelicals, Charismatic Christians, promoters of ecumenical cooperative evangelism and of the social gospel, and all churches and other movements and organisations that are aligned with or sympathetic to the Ecumenical Movement.
- 1.10. The Church, having been founded on the principle of Biblical separation, and being associated with the Bible-Presbyterian Church of Singapore, which is a member of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC), shall likewise be affiliated with the ICCC as long as the ICCC faithfully maintains its stand on Biblical separation.

## **THE MAIN PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH**

**The main practices of the Church are as follows:**

- 1.1. *Baptism* – The observance of the baptism of believers is by sprinkling on personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Infants of one or both the believing parents are to be baptized. Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 2:38-42; 8:35-38; 10:44-48; I Corinthians 7:14.
- 1.2. *Reaffirmation of Faith* – Baptised infants upon coming of age, in that they can satisfy the Board of Elders as to their faith, shall be received into communicant membership by reaffirmation of faith.
- 1.3. *The Lord's Supper* – The remembrance of the Lord's death through the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly, and normally all baptised believers (except baptized children of constituent members who have not yet reaffirmed their faith), whose conduct is consistent with their confession of their faith, shall be received at the Lord's table, Luke 22:14-29; Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7; Romans 14:19; 15:7; I Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:23-26.
- 1.4. *Fellowship and Discipleship* – Every member shall participate in fellowship, prayer, and instruction with other believers and the exercise of spiritual gifts for the edification of the Church, Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-16; Hebrews 10:23-25; I Peter 4:7-11.
- 1.5. *Evangelism and Missions* – The local church, in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, both as individual and collective witnesses, shall proclaim the Gospel to their families, neighbours, colleagues, friends, the nation, as well as the regions beyond. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21;

Acts 1:8; I Peter 2:9; 3:15.

- 1.6. *Stewardship* – Every member shall have the responsibility and privilege to contribute his gifts, talents, time, and resources to the work of God and the extension of His Kingdom. It shall also be the responsibility and privilege of each member to tithe and contribute willingly, regularly, and generously, according to his ability, and as God enables. Romans 12:1-13; I Corinthians 6:19,20; 16:1,2; II Corinthians 8:9.
- 1.7. *Christian Education* – The Church shall conduct a Christian Education programme to build up the members on the most holy faith (Jude 20), through Sunday School, Bible study classes, Bible study groups, catechism classes, Christian publications, Gospel tracts, and such other similar measures as the Church Session and/or Board of Elders may decide.
- 1.8. *Worship* – All members shall meet regularly for the public worship of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and shall maintain family and personal devotions. Psalm 1:1-3; 27:4; 122:1; Hebrews 10:24,25; Song of Solomon 1:6. Believing parents shall endeavour to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord and to lead them into a saving knowledge of the Lord by regular instruction of the Word of God. Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4.
- 1.9. *Weddings* – the solemnisation of marriages between born-again believers. The groom must be a baptised believer and the bride either a baptised believer or a catechumen. II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:21-33.
- 1.10. *Funerals* – The normal practice of the Church is to bury the dead. A Christian funeral is to be conducted only for born-again believers.