

## Appendix B

### Our Core Beliefs

#### We believe in God:

- Almighty creator, sustainer of all, both seen and unseen, the heavens and earth
- One God in three persons, each fully God, in perfect community with one another
- Eternal, unchanging, all knowing, and good; perfect in justice, beauty, and love
- At work saving, restoring, and guiding creation and the Church toward God's kingdom

#### We believe in God the Father:

- Immortal, invisible, sovereign, holy, loving, and wise
- Who spoke all out nothing and breathed life into man
- Who loves each of us with an unconditional and eternal love
- Protector of the unprotected and adoptive Father of all who trust in His Son

#### We believe in Jesus Christ:

- Son of God, Word become flesh, born of a virgin, and without sin
- Messiah, Lord, Savior, and the fulfillment of Israel's story and Scripture
- He suffered, died, was buried, and rose triumphant over sin, death and Satan
- Ascended into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father
- He will return to judge and establish God's kingdom
- His life, mission, and teachings are the ultimate pattern for life

#### We believe in Holy Spirit:

- Spirit of Truth, sent by the Father and Son, moving throughout the world to convict and renew
- Counselor, teacher, giver of gifts, comforter, helper, the one source of true worship
- Drawing us into God's triune communion and transforming us into Christlikeness
- Uniting the Church for the glory of Christ

#### We believe in the Church

- One body and beloved bride of Christ, the hope of society and culture
- A counter cultural presence of God's kingdom in this world
- Worshipping together, proclaiming the Good News, and bringing restoration to the world
- A fellowship of mutual love, life-sharing, and sacrifice
- Called to make disciples of every nation, and to teach them to love God and others

#### We believe in the Holy Scriptures:

- Divinely inspired revelation of God penned by human hands
- Truth without error in its original form
- Communicating God's mission and heart from creation to consummation
- Revealing that God is at work in this world in a people; Israel, the Church, the kingdom of God
- Our lamp and guide in faith and life, each book pointing to Christ

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins:**

- Rebellious in nature and action, each person is subject to divine judgement
- In Christ, God became fully human to redeem us fully
- Through His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus took the just wrath of God in our place
- We died with Him; He died instead of us, and for our benefit
- His death liberates us from sin and systemic evil, and justifies us
- God's grace through faith alone, brings healing; today in part, and fully to come

**We believe in life everlasting**

- The resurrection of Christ broke the bonds of death and ushers in new creation
- Resurrection hope while in this world and beyond this life
- The triumphant return of Christ and the resurrection of the body
- Bringing judgement; eternal separation from God or eternal life on the new earth
- The final establishment of the kingdom of God; of peace, justice, love, and holiness
- Where every tribe, tongue, and nation join together to worship God and enjoy Him forever!

**As a matter of practice...**

- In essential beliefs – we have unity. (Ephesians 4:3-6)
- In non-essential beliefs – we have liberty. (Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22)
- In all our beliefs – we show charity. (I Corinthians 13:2)