

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE I

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 Th. 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:19-21

ARTICLE II

We believe in one God—the Creator and Ruler of the universe, existing in a divine and incomprehensible Trinity—the Father; the Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit—each possessing divine perfection.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." 2 Cor. 13:14; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 14:26, 15:26; 1 Pet. 1:2

ARTICLE III

We believe that our first parents were created holy and upright, that they fell from this condition; and that in consequence the whole human race is in their nature dead in trespasses and sins.

". . . by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Rom. 5:12; Gen. 1:27, 28, 31; Eccl. 7:29; Eph. 2:1-5

ARTICLE IV

We believe in the incarnation, death, and bodily resurrection of the Son of God; and that salvation is attained only through repentance and faith in Him.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . in Him was life, and the life was the light of men . . . and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His Glory. . ." Jn. 1:1-14; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Acts 4:10-12

ARTICLE V

We believe in the necessity of a radical change of heart and that this is effected through the truth, by the agency of the Holy Spirit.

". . . Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jn. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:23; Ti. 3:5

ARTICLE VI

We believe that the Christian is called with a holy calling to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:22, 23; Jn. 15:10

ARTICLE VII

We believe that only those should be admitted to membership in the visible Church who have experienced a change of heart.

"Jesus answered, `Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" Jn. 3:5; 1 Cor. 5:6

ARTICLE VIII

We believe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper together with the observance of the Lord's Day are of perpetual obligation in the church. Recognizing both immersion and affusion as valid, we leave the determination of the mode of adult baptism to the candidate. Provision shall always be made for the baptism or dedication of infants of believers.* Mt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:24-26; Ex. 31:16, 17, with Mt. 5:17, 18

ARTICLE IX

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and future judgments from which the righteous go away into everlasting life and the wicked into everlasting punishment.

". . . many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Dan. 12:2; Mt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-15, 21:26, 27

ARTICLE X

We believe in the personal, bodily return of Christ in power and great glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and in Christ's ultimate complete triumph and the establishment of "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." *

". . . this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in the like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11; 2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 19:16, 21:1-7

**This article shall be either printed in the church bulletin or read before baptism services in College Church.*

WE BELIEVE the Scriptures establish basic principles to guide the actions and attitudes of a Christian and that it is the responsibility of each Christian, through constant submission to Christ, to glorify God through the application of these principles¹. We affirm the Scriptures as the Christian's final source of teaching and training for all of life's activities. Consistent reading and study of the Word of God is essential for growth in the Christian life.²

WE BELIEVE the life of a Christian empowered by the Holy Spirit is characterized by love for and dependence upon God and love toward all people.³ A Christian loves God by worshiping Him,⁴ giving thanks for all He has done,⁵ obeying Him,⁶ and making Him known to others.⁷ A Christian loves others by sharing their burdens,⁸ remaining intolerant of their sin,⁹ forgiving their personal offenses yet seeking to restore them to fellowship with the Lord,¹⁰ demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,¹¹ and loving others as himself.¹²

WE BELIEVE, for example, that the Scriptures call a Christian to be joyful,¹³ to trust in God,¹⁴ to live a life of holiness in the world,¹⁵ to exhibit humility and honesty,¹⁶ to deny self in submission to the sovereignty of Christ¹⁷ and to be a faithful steward of things God has given—mind, time, abilities, funds, and opportunities.¹⁸

WE BELIEVE that a Christian must strive to live a life in which Christ is Lord of all thoughts, actions, and words. A Christian must recognize that there are actions and attitudes that are inconsistent and inappropriate, such as sinning against the body of Christ or one's own body. A Christian led by the Holy Spirit will, after prayer and studying the Scriptures, exercise freedom responsibly with loving regard for the sensitivities and weaknesses of others.¹⁹

WE FURTHER BELIEVE that, based on Scriptural teaching and concern for our individual and corporate witness, we must refrain from practices such as sexual impurity, marital infidelity, gossiping, greed, illegal drug use, licentiousness, drunkenness and other excesses.²⁰ By God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Christian should seek to grow in godliness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ. In so doing, Christ is given all glory and his redeeming love is on display for all to see.

1) Ex. 20; Mt. 5:16; Lk. 11:28; Acts 5:29; Mt. 6:33

2) Tim. 2:15; 3:16

3) Phil. 1:9-11; Jn. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 13:8; 1 Cor. 13:1; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Th. 4:9; 1 Pet. 4:8

4) Mt. 4:10

5) Col. 3:17; 1 Th. 5:18; Eph. 5:20

6) 1 Jn. 2:3-6

7) Mk. 16:15; Rom. 1:16

8) Gal. 6:2

9) Rom. 13:14

10) Mt. 18:21-22; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13; Lk. 6:27-28; 32-35; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Pet. 3:9

11) Gal. 5:17-23

12) Rom. 13:9

13) Neh. 8:10; Ps. 5:11; Jn. 15:11

14) 1 Jn. 2:23; 2 Chr. 20:20; Isa. 26:4; Heb. 2:13

15) Rom. 12:1; Eph. 1:4; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 1 Jn. 2:15-17

16) Col. 3:8-12; 1 Th. 4:12

17) Mt. 16:24; Rom. 12:16; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:3-4

18) 1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 5:15-16, 18; Mt. 6:19-21; Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 6:16

19) 1 Cor. 8:9,13; Rom. 14

20) 1 Pet. 1:13-16; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:17-24; Jas. 3:2-10; Phil. 4:8-9

**I have read, understand and agree with the Articles of Faith
and Standards of the Christian Life of College Church.**

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____