

# **Mount Helena Community Church**

## **Statement of Beliefs**

Thank you for taking the time to look at our Statement of Beliefs. Understanding the basic beliefs of a local church is important when becoming a part of their community. This set of beliefs is not exhaustive, but we feel it is sufficient to help you understand the foundation from which we teach and operate. We are all on a journey of growing in our knowledge and relationship with God. We understand that not everyone comes from the same background nor are we all at the same place of understanding. Because of this reality, we want to exercise great grace for one another's beliefs as we work toward unity in our faith. Knowledge by itself will not justify any of us before God and therefore we will not wield our knowledge in arrogance. Having said that, we adhere in faith to what we believe to be a solid exegesis of the scriptures. In the essential beliefs we have unity. In non-essential beliefs we have liberty. In all our beliefs we show love.

### **1. Holy Bible:**

The Holy Bible and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. It is written by human authors, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and in its original writing, it is infallible and inerrant.

2 Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26

### **2. Trinity:**

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal.

1 John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-2

### **3. God the Father:**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. We believe that God the Father holds all the attributes of God while exercising a unique role in the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). They are in agreement with the role of each: God as Father, Son as sacrifice, and Spirit as power. God is the father of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and yet still one with both as God. The Father adopts believers into relationship with him as their Father.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2; Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:17; Romans 8:15-17; John 15:1-2; Hebrews 12:7-11

### **4. Jesus Christ:**

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On Earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, atoned [suffered the penalty] for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory.

John 1:1, 14: 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Col. 1:19

5. **Virgin Birth:**

Jesus Christ was conceived supernaturally by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God.

Matthew 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:27-35

6. **Holy Spirit:**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily.

John 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-13, 17; Acts 1:8; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18

7. **Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers:**

Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to Him thus making Jesus the Lord of their lives as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried and rose again from the dead.

John 1:12; 14:17, 23; 15:14; Romans 8:11; Revelation 3:20

8. **Baptism In The Holy Spirit:**

First given at Pentecost, after the ascension of Christ to Heaven, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His Ascension, to empower the Church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole earth. At the point of believing in and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord our spirit is reborn, our salvation is "sealed" and we "receive" the Holy Spirit (John 20:22). There is a second experience or filling with the Holy Spirit that is often referred to as Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1). This second experience or baptism in the Holy Spirit is the "promise of Power from Heaven" (Acts 1:4-5) and is an empowering to do the work of the Kingdom and to overcoming sin. The scripture indicates that as believers were baptized with the Holy Spirit they received the ability to speak in tongues, prophesy, and/or preach the gospel.

Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39; 8:14-17; 10:38, 44-47; 11:15-17; 19:1-6

9. **Man:**

Man is made in the image of God to be like Him in character. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalms 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23

10. **Marriage:**

God's design for sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the context of marriage. God instituted marriage between one man and one woman as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9

**11. Redemption:**

Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Genesis 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21

**12. Jesus' Blood:**

The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death.

1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23; 5:9; John 1:29

**13. Rebirth:**

For anyone to know God, a new birth by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

Titus 3:5; John 6:44, 65

**14. Salvation:**

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, His death, burial and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts. Those that have received salvation will spend eternity in Heaven.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22

**15. Repentance:**

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ; we are then redeemed from sin and regenerated ("born again") by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and salvation.

Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 1:9

**16. Sanctification:**

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present, ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18; Romans 8:29, 12:1-2; Hebrews 2:11; Titus 2:11

**17. Spiritual Gifts:**

*(Gifts Of The Holy Spirit)*

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts which may occur in various combinations. They are intended to be orderly and edifying in nature. Anyone using a gift is accountable to the scripture and their fellow believers.

Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11; 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10

**18. The Church:**

The church is the “body of Christ” also referred to as the household of faith. It is a living house where God dwells in His people. We believe that everyone that has been saved by Christ is a member of the church. We believe that the church exists throughout the world, and is witnessed and experienced in local gatherings of believers.

Ephesians 4:16; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 5:24-32; Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 2:4-5; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Acts 14:23; Matthew 16:16–18; Acts 2:42–47; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 1:20–23; 4:3–10; Colossians 3:14–15

**19. The Priesthood of Every Believer:**

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full-time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry.

Every believer has direct access to God through Bible reading/study, prayer, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Every Christian is to be a disciple developing relational environments in which they share their faith with those around them by word and by action.

*...and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:5-6 NKJV*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9*

**20. Water Baptism:**

Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is instructed by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The apostle, Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians tells us that salvation come to use through grace – not through works or any kind. We are saved through faith alone. (Ephesians 2:8) At Mount Helena we believe that every member should be baptized the way Jesus demonstrated (immersion), even though many of us were sprinkled as children. Baptism is symbolic of both cleansing and resurrection.

Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:28; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 26-38; 10:47-48; Ephesians 2:8

**21. Resurrection:**

Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal destruction.

Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21; 20:26-28; 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23; 3:21

**22. Heaven:**

Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:3, 12, 20; 6:20; 19:21; 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4

**23. Hell:**

After living life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to Hell where they will be eternally separated from God and tormented with the Devil and the Fallen Angels.

Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:12-15; 21:8

**24. The Return Of Jesus Christ:**

We have people with many views on this issue in our church. Some are pre-millennial, others are amillennial, and there are various other differing views. Taking a position on one of these is not a salvation issue. We can agree to disagree.

Scripture clearly teaches that Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom physically on earth. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (*Matthew 24:30; 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7*).

**25. Healing Of The Sick:**

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign that is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the Cross and is one of the gifts of the Spirit.

*Psalms 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28*

**26. Laying on of Hands :**

The *laying on of hands* is an act in which one person places his hands upon another person with some definite spiritual purpose, normally accompanied by prayer or by prophetic utterance, or by both. By laying their hands upon another person, one can (a) impart spiritual blessing, authority, healing or a spiritual gift to another person; (b) publicly commission or ordain someone for a special task or ministry.

Hebrews 6:1-2; Genesis 48:10-16; Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 34:9; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 3:2-3; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6

**27. Communion**

Communion, also known as The Lord's Supper, is a designated time in which we remember the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. We collectively partake of bread and wine (or juice) as representations of Jesus' body and blood respectively. We recognize the importance of doing so on a regular basis, generally four times a year during our Sunday services. Those who recognize Jesus' sacrifice with integrity are allowed to participate. Children are allowed to participate at the discretion of their parents.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16