

STATEMENT OF FAITH

SOUTHVIEW ALLIANCE CHURCH

We are a body of Christians who follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Our faith is in him. We believe that the Bible is the living and true Word of God. It is an account of God's faithfulness and love for all of us, and the guide for the way we live our lives.

For those who are newcomers to our church, and possibly to the Christian faith, we realize this may be a lot to take in. The good news is that you don't have to experience it alone. Whatever your level of understanding or faith, we want to walk with you through the greatest story of all time, and towards the gift of our living and loving God.

The following is our statement of faith. These are the essential elements of our doctrine and teaching from the Bible which guide us in our life as a church community:

WHAT WE BELIEVE . . .

... about God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

... about Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended into Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3 - 4; Acts 1:9 - 11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

... about the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people 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. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

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

... about Humans

We are made in the spiritual image of God to be like Him in character and to bring him glory. We are the supreme object of God's creation and love. Although we have tremendous potential for good, we are marred by an attitude of disobedience towards God called "sin". This attitude separates us from God until the relationship is restored through a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2

... about Eternity

Humans were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life, in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; 1 John 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15

... about Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God to humanity. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ at God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

... about the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth and guidance for Christian beliefs and living.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

... about the Church

The universal Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head, consists of all people from all nations who have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and through faith are forgiven by God's grace. The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, is a group of followers of Jesus Christ who walk and gather together to worship God, to be built up through the Word of God, to pray, to grow in relationship together, and to declare in their words and actions the good news of salvation both locally and globally.

Ephesians 3:6-12, 1:22-23; Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 11:19-30, 15

... about Spiritual Formation

God desires that each follower of Christ would grow in their knowledge of him and be formed to live like Jesus, expressing Christ's love in word and action. This journey of being formed in Christ is not merely one of self effort and striving, but of empowerment by the Holy Spirit. Each believer is encouraged to live under the control, power and guidance of the Holy Spirit - what the Bible calls "being filled with the Spirit." Being filled with the Holy Spirit is both a distinct event and progressive experience in the life of the believer.

1 Thessalonians 5:23; Acts 1:8; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 4:19, 5:16-25