

## Statement of Faith

*The foundational beliefs of First Presbyterian Church are listed below. These have been adopted by the Session of our church and candidates for elder and deacon should be people who affirm these beliefs as essential to their walk with Jesus Christ in their daily life.*

### **1. God:**

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

### **2. Jesus Christ:**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully man, fully God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. After three days, he arose from the dead to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father. He will return to earth again someday to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

### **3. The Holy Spirit:**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is present in the world to make humankind aware of their need for Jesus Christ. When we accept that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit provides us with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Holy Spirit gives each Christian a gift to be used in God's service. As followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to live under the Holy Spirit's control every day.

### **4. The Bible:**

The Bible is God's Word to us. While it was written by human authors, they were guided by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is preeminent as the source of truth for faith and action. Inspired by God, the Bible is the truth without rival or error.

### **5. People:**

We are created in God's image. We have direct access to God through prayer. In character, we are to reflect the nature of the Father. We are the culmination, and the object of God's creative work. While we are created with potential for much good, we all fall short of God's glory. Our lives are marred by sin. This disobedience separates us from God and causes many problems in life.

### **6. Salvation:**

Salvation is God's free gift {grace} to all who accept it. We cannot make up for our sin with good works or attempts at self-improvement. We are saved only by Jesus' death on the cross and through our acceptance of that gift. When we repent, turn from our self-ruled lives, and decide to follow Jesus down the road to mission, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ through faith.

## **7. Eternal Security:**

If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot lose your salvation. Salvation is maintained by the power and grace of God. It is not ours, through word or deed, to keep. It is this power and grace of God, which gives us such security.

## **8. Eternity:**

People will either live eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation, or exist eternally separated from God by sin. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in unison with Him is eternal life {heaven}. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence.

## **9. The Local Church:**

The local church is a body of believers organized for worship, work, and fellowship. God calls the local church to a particular ministry. We are ultimately responsible to Christ alone who is its Savior and Lord. In its practices, baptism and the Lord's Supper are its sacraments.

## **Scriptural References:**

1. *Gen. 1:1, 26,27; 3:22; Ps. 90:2; Matt. 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Cor. 13:14.*
2. *Matt. 1:22, 23; Isa. 9:6; John 1:1-15; 14:10-30; Heb. 4:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Tim. 6:14-15; Titus 2:13.*
3. *2 Cor. 3:17; John 14:16-17; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:12; 3:16; Eph. 1:13; Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:18.*
4. *2 Tim. 1:13; 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Ps. 12:6; 119:105, 160; Prov. 30:5.*
5. *Gen. 1:27; Ps. 8:3-6; Isa. 53:6a; 59:1-2; Rom. 3:23.*
6. *Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12; 14:6; Titus 3:5; Gal. 3:26; Rom. 5:1.*
7. *John 10:29; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 7:25; 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5.*
8. *John 3:16; 1 John 2:25, 5:11-13; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:15; Matt. 18:8, 25:44,46.*
9. *Rom. 6:3-4; Matt. 28:19; Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.*