

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Washington Cathedral was founded to be in the tradition of mainline Christianity, as taught in the Holy Scriptures and handed down by the Meta-Church. It should be understood that the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, are our ultimate and ever guiding example.

We the people of Washington Cathedral are under God and no other leader, we are subject to Biblical authority alone, and we also bear concerted witness to the following articles to which we subscribe, to which we hold essential to the membership of this Meta-Church and its ministry.

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is God's love letter guiding us to a better life.

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. We believe the scripture in its entirety originated with and reflects the backgrounds, styles, and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the scriptures are infallible and inerrant in the original manuscripts. They have the unique, full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice and there are no other writings similar.) inspired by God. We believe that the church family should constantly be experiencing the transformative power of scripture through its preaching, teaching, memorization, study and meditation. This should lead to constant growth in our thoughts, actions, habits, and character. We believe that the scriptures should be an inspiration of personally experienced grace and not of super-spiritual judgmental attitudes toward others. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

GOD

We believe God is bigger and better and closer than we could ever imagine.

We believe that the creator of the universe whom many religions have different names for is the one true loving God. God is eternal and completely good, knowing all things and having all power and majesty. God exists as the Trinity, in three persons, yet one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God passionately desires relationship with us and toward this end continually invites us in to a relationship of faith, friendship, learning and service. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:18- 31; John 14:6-9, 15-17, 16:7-15; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

JESUS CHRIST

We believe Jesus is God showing himself to us and we want to be His Followers.

A. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who was united forever with a true human nature . by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the father. We believe that the Good News of Jesus Christ and of the Kingdom of God is fundamental teaching that we follow today. We believe that Jesus died for our sins on the cross, that he was buried, that he rose again on the third day, that he appeared to his disciples and that he then ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father where he continually intercedes for his followers. We believe that Jesus will come again to earth

personally and visibly to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. (I Corinthians 15 3-12; Colossians 1:13-23, Colossians 2:8-14; Matthew 22:36-40; John 14:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-3; Acts 10:42-43; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit, God can live in and through us.

We believe that the Holy Spirit, sent from God to live inside all who believe in Jesus Christ, teaches, comforts and empowers us. We believe in the filling of the Holy Spirit and its essential ministry in bringing the fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit. We understand the gifts to be legitimate expressions as long as they are in order with the rest of the local congregational family and in careful concert with the leadership and the unique calling and ministry of the local church family. We believe that the Holy Spirit communicates to the body through individual believers who then interpret this message in relationship to scripture and the counsel of mature Christian believers. We understand that the fellowship with the Holy Spirit is at the heart of genuine Positive Faith. (The Book of Acts; Romans 5:5, 8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 3:16, 4:3-4:5:18; John 14:26, 16:7-14)

SALVATION

We believe grace is the only way we to have an authentic relationship with God

The central purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call people into fellowship with Him. Originally created to have fellowship with God, humankind chose to go their independent way and were thus alienated from God, suffering the corruption of human nature. Therefore we affirm with scripture that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of . God" (Romans 3:23). The salvation of each person is wholly a work of God's free grace and not the result, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness. It must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith in the finished work of Christ. When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He gives assurance in his Word that he will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation. (Romans 3:9-28, 6:23, 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3; Titus 3:3-8; James 2:14-26)

THE CHURCH

We believe that none of us can be at our best living alone; we all need a positive community of faithful friends.

A. The result of union with Jesus Christ is that all believers become members of His body, the church, the Family of God. There is one true universal Church, comprised of all those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We believe that this church is a part of a larger universal church, made up of many denominations and traditions that believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We are in cooperation with all other Christian churches, not in competition, to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the word and fellowship. They are to serve the body and reach out to the world in observance of Baptism and Communion as the sacramental ordinances

established by Jesus Christ. The church is under the leadership of the pastors, who are given the responsibility to equip God's people for ministry. All believers are called and gifted to fulfill the Great Commission. We believe in healing hurts and building dreams in a variety of needs-meeting ministries that reach thousands of un-churched people in our community. (Matthew 16:18; John 15:12; Acts 2:42-47; Colossians 4:5-6)

HUMANKIND

We believe all of us are fallible human beings but with God's help we can grow.

A. We believe that God made people in His own image, as the crown of creation, so we might have fellowship with Him. Tempted by Satan, humans rebelled against God, thus obtaining a predisposition for lack of trust which has separated us from God and led us into sin. Because of this fallen nature, it is clear that God must and does initiate the redemptive process. We believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for sinners, shedding His blood for the atonement of sins, and that God has a wonderful plan for each of our lives. (Genesis 1 :26-27; Psalm 8:3-6; Romans 3; John 15)

POSTIVE FAITH

We believe faith is the key to living life with the joy we all long for.

We believe the expression "positive faith" for us is helpful to make clear the Biblical definition of real faith for those living in our culture. Negative faith is a contradiction of terms since it signifies "no faith." "Positive faith" for us is simply asserting faith in Jesus Christ by all means. It is an expression illustrating the Love of God and a checkpoint for us to make sure that we are trying to follow Jesus instead of simply trying to be religious. Therefore, it is much more than merely a positive mental attitude. It is faith in a living, loving God who is there when we ask for His help. The life of Jesus Christ, His teachings and the teachings of every word of Holy Scripture are what we mean by "positive faith." (Galatians 5; Philippians 4; Romans 13)

ETERNAL DESTINY

We believe humans are eternal beings and death is not the end.

We believe that God's redemptive purpose will be consummated by the return of Jesus Christ. Then shall the eager expectation of creation be fulfilled and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God who makes all things new. Humanity was created to exist forever. They 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 to be in hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Humans cannot judge salvation; God alone will judge. Our task is to love people like Jesus knowing that they are eternal beings. (John 3:16, 2:25, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 5:11-12; Luke 21:27)