

Revised, 01-28-2018

## Doctrinal Statement of Faith Church of Linden

To set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us we send forth the commonly believed confession of faith held among us as follows:

### I. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired [1]; that it is truth without admixture of error [2]; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man [3]; the true center of Christian union [4]; and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried [5].

- A. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God but IS the very Word of God [6].
- B. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired [7].

[1] 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 28:25; John 5:45-47

[2] John 17:17; Romans 3:4

[3] Luke 24:25-27; Psalm 119:89; Proverbs 3:5-6; Revelation 22:19; Luke 16:31

[4] 2 Timothy 3:16-17

[5] Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:130; John 14:28; Romans 15:4

[6] Psalm 119:160; Isaiah 8:20; Ephesians 6:17; Psalm 19:7-11; John 5:45-47

[7] Acts 1:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 28:25

### II. THE GODHEAD

We believe there is only one true God [1], eternally existing [2] in three uncreated Persons [3], God the Father [4], God the Son [5], and God the Holy Spirit [6]. These three are of one and the same essence though distinct in personality [7]; equal in every divine perfection and attribute [8], and function in perfect harmony to accomplish the manifold works of God [9].

[1] Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:21-22; John 5:44

[2] Exodus 3:14; Jeremiah 10:10;

[3] Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Jude 20-21

[4] John 4:21, 23; Romans 15:6

[5] Matthew 3:17; Romans 1:3-4

[6] Genesis 1:2; Matthew 1:18; 12:32

[7] 2 Samuel 23:2-3; John 6:27; Hebrews 1:8

[8] John 5:23; 16:15; Acts 5:3-4

[9] Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 9:14

### III. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the eternal Son of God [1], that He is both God [2] and man [3], the two natures being inseparably united in one glorious Person through the incarnation [4]. We believe in His virgin conception and birth [5], His vicarious atonement for the sins of mankind [6], His bodily resurrection from the tomb [7], and His ascension into heaven [8] as the believer's High Priest and Advocate before the throne of God [9].

[1] Isaiah. 9:6; Matthew 16:16; John 10:36; 17:5

[2] John 1:1; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20

[3] Matthew 20:28; John 8:40; 1 Timothy 2:5

[4] John 1:14; Romans 1:3-4; Hebrews 10:5

[5] Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25

[6] Isaiah 53:1-12; John 1:29; 1 John 2:2

[7] *Matthew 28:5-7; Luke 24:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Revelation 1:18*

[8] *Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:2, 9-11*

[9] *1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:3; 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 3:21*

#### IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature [1]; that He was active in the creation [2]; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled [3]; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness [4]; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony [5]; that He is the agent in the New Birth [6]; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer [7]; that He gives to the believer at salvation, gifts of service according to His will and to be used only for the edification of the body [8].

[1] *John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35*

[2] *Genesis 1:1-3*

[3] *2 Thessalonians 2:7*

[4] *John 16:8-11*

[5] *John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32*

[6] *John 3:5-6*

[7] *Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 14:26, 16:13; Romans 8:9, 14, 16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:26-27*

[8] *1 Corinthians 12:11, 13:5b; Ephesians 4:16*

#### V. THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels [1]; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world [2]. We hold him to be man's great tempter [3], the enemy of God and His Christ [4], the accuser of the saints [5], the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy [6], the lord of the anti-Christ [7], and the author of all the powers of darkness [8], destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels [9].

[1] *Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Revelation 12:9; Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:2; John 14:30*

[2] *1 Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:1-3*

[3] *1 Peter 5:8*

[4] *Zechariah 1:3; 1 John 3:8; Matthew 13:25, 37-39; Luke 22:3, 4*

[5] *Revelation 12:10*

[6] *2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Mark 13:21, 22*

[7] *1 John 4:3; 2 John 7; 1 John 2:22*

[8] *Revelation 13:13, 14; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11*

[9] *Genesis 3:15; Revelation 19:11, 16, 20; Revelation 12:7-9; 20:1-3; Revelation 20:10-15; Matthew 25:41*

#### VI. THE CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively [1]; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary changes of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms [2]; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind" [3].

[1] *Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Acts 4:24; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Revelation 10:6; Romans 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jeremiah 10:12; Nehemiah 9:6*

[2] *Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7,21-23; 1 Corinthians 11:7; John 1:3*

[3] *Genesis 1:11, 24; Colossians 1:16-17*

## VII. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created directly by God on Day Six of the creation week [1], in His image [2] (a finite, creaturely replication of the infinite Creator), and in a state of sinlessness or innocence, righteousness, and holiness [3]. We believe that originally man freely chose to transgress the expressed will of God [4] and thereby mankind incurred sin [5], condemnation [6], and physical and spiritual death [7], so that man is a sinner by nature and by choice [8], and is totally depraved, destitute of any moral good and utterly unable to merit God's favor or contribute to his salvation [9].

[1] *Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-25*

[2] *Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9*

[3] *Ecclesiastes 7:29; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:9-10*

[4] *Genesis 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:14*

[5] *Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:12, 19*

[6] *Romans 5:16, 18*

[7] *Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12, 14, 15, 17, 21; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1*

[8] *Genesis 8:21; 1 Kings 8:46; Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10, 12, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10*

[9] *Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 19:25-26; Romans 4:5-6; Ephesians 2:9; Titus 3:5*

## VIII. THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever or can ever be born of woman [1]; and that He is the Son of God, and God the Son [2].

[1] *Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35*

[2] *Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4; 1 John 5:20; 1 Corinthians 15:47*

## IX. THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God who, by the appointment of the Father [1], freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience [2]; by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins [3]; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree [4]; having risen from the dead. He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection [5]; that He is in every way qualified to be a suitable and compassionate and all-sufficient Saviour [6].

[1] *Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11*

[2] *Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14, 4:15*

[3] *Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2, 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3;*

[4] *2 Corinthians 5:21; John 10:18; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18; Isaiah. 53:11*

[5] *Hebrews 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15:20; Isaiah. 53:12*

[6] *Hebrews 9:12-15; Hebrews 7:25*

## X. GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again [1]; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus [2]; that it is instantaneous and not a process [3]; that in the new birth the dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God [4]; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel [5]; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life [6].

[1] *John 3:3*

[2] *2 Corinthians 5:17*

[3] Acts 2:41; Acts 16:30-33

[4] 2 John 1:1; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:5

[5] John 3:8; John 1:12-13

[6] Romans 10:8-10; 1 John 5:1-5; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9

## XI. THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe in God's electing grace [1] that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel [2]; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith [3]; that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; and such rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation [4].

[1] 1 Thessalonians 1:4; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:2

[2] Romans 10:9-13; Revelation 22:17

[3] John 3:15-18; 1 Timothy 1:15; Acts 2:37-41; Romans 10:8, 9

[4] John 3:18, 36; Romans 1:18, 20, 2:1, 4, 5

## XII. JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification [1]; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness [2]; that It is bestowed not on consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us [3].

[1] Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Titus 3:5-7

[2] Zechariah 13:1; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:9; Romans 5:11

[3] Habakkuk 2:4; Galatians 3:11; Romans 4:18; Hebrews 10:38

## XIII. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God [1]; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy [2]; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour [3].

[1] Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Ephesians 2:8-9

[2] Luke 18:13; Psalm 51; Isaiah 55:6-7

[3] Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9-13

## XIV. THE CHURCH

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated together by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ [1]; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word [2]; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures [3]; we believe that the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order [4]; We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit [5]; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and methods of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final [6].

[1] Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 1:2

[2] Ephesians 1:22-23

[3] *Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; 1 Peter 5:1-4*

[4] *Matthew 28:19-20*

[5] *Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:22-23*

[6] *Acts 15:22; Jude 3-4; 2 Corinthians 8:23-24; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Malachi 3:10; Leviticus 27:32; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13*

## **XV. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit with the authority of the local church [1] to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life [2]; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination [3].

[1] *Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 3:6; John 3:23; Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19*

[2] *Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12*

[3] *Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28*

## **XVI. THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS**

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end, that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors [1]; that a special Providence watches over their welfare [2]; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation [3].

[1] *John 8:31-32; Colossians 1:21; 1 John 2:19; Matthew 13:19-21; Romans 8:23; Matthew 6:30*

[2] *Psalms 121:3; Hebrews 1:14*

[3] *1 Peter 1:5; Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39*

## **XVII. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked [1]; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem [2]; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse [3] and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost [4].

[1] *Galatians 3:22, 26; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; 1 Peter 4:18; Proverbs 11:31*

[2] *Romans 1:17; 1 Corinthians 15:22; John 5:24; Romans 3:22-24, 4:22-24; Ephesians 1:6-7*

[3] *1 John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; Romans 6:23, 7:5*

[4] *Matthew 25:34, 41, 46; Luke 9:26, 16:25-26; John 8:21; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:10-15*

## **XVIII. CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society [1]; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed [2], except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth [3]. In this connection we stand firmly for the separation of church and state [4].

[1] *Romans 13:1-7; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22*

[2] *Matthew 22:21; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17; Daniel 1:8-15*

[3] *Acts 4:19-20, 5:29; Daniel 3:17-18, 6:10-11*

[4] *Matthew 10:28, 22:21, 23:10; Revelation 11:16; Philippians 2:10-11; Psalm 72:11*

## **XIX. THE FAMILY**

We believe: that marriage of a man to a woman is the plan of God and sacred in His sight [1]; that the roles of husband, wife, parent, and child are clearly defined in Scripture [2]; that sexual relationships are sacred and fulfilling only within the bonds of marriage, and such relationships are condemned outside the marriage relationship [3]; that children are a blessing of God, and the responsibility for them rests solely upon the parents; that children are to be brought up in loving, structured control and conscientious instruction in the truths of God and His principles of life [4].

[1] *Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:18-32; 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; Malachi 2:13-14*

[2] *Ephesians 5:21-32; Colossians 3:16-21; 1 Peter 3:1-7*

[3] *1 Corinthians 7:3-4; Hebrews 13:4*

[4] *Psalms 127:3; Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 78:4-7; Proverbs 22:6; Proverbs 17:6*

## **XX. THE RESURRECTION, RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS**

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their full and face value. These beliefs include:

A. Christ's bodily resurrection from the tomb.

*Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Corinthians 15:4-8; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6; Acts 2:24, 32, 3:15, 4:2; Romans 4:25*

B. His ascension to the Father's right hand.

*Acts 1:9, 11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Hebrews 10:12*

C. His present high Priesthood.

*Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 7:24-25, 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1*

D. His future appearing in the air to receive His saints.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28*

E. The resurrection of the righteous dead.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 15:52*

F. The physical change of the living in Christ.

*1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Philippians 3:20-21*

G. The believer's response to God's Word will be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ for reward or loss.

*2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Romans 14:10; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 22:2*

H. Christ's bodily return to the earth to reign from the throne of David (Pre-Millennial).

*Matthew 24:29-32; Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7; Acts 2:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Isaiah 32:1, 11:4-5; Psalm 72:8; Revelation 20:1-4, 6*

I. The White Throne Judgment of the unsaved, and the new heaven and the new earth.

*Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-2*

## **XXI. MISSIONS**

A. Definition of Missions

Missions is the fulfilling of the Great Commission.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV)

- B. Missions consist of four tasks as commanded by the Lord.
1. Proclaiming the Gospel of salvation in and through Christ.
  2. Making disciples or followers of Christ.
  3. Identifying followers of Christ by baptizing them.
  4. Teaching disciples who in turn start the process all over again.
- C. Missions is the responsibility of the local church and is to be carried out according to the Lord's instructions,  
*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NKJV)*
- D. This means that Missions starts at the door of the local church and goes to the ends of the earth and covers every place and people groups in between.
1. Local Missions is the making and growing of disciples within our own area and/or community.
  2. Global Missions for Faith Church is the sending out and supporting of equipped disciple-makers who cross barriers of distance, and/or culture and/or language in order to establish churches and strengthen the churches in places beyond the normal sphere of influence of our members, both within and outside the USA.
  3. Missions not only includes those who proclaim the Gospel, build the churches, teach the believers; but it also includes those who enable them. Some who would be enablers are the sending agencies, translators, Bible teachers, skilled workers and so on.

## **XXII. THE GRACE OF GIVING**

- A. Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith.  
*"Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also." 2 Corinthians 8:7*
- B. We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.  
*"Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." 1 Corinthians 16:2*
- C. Under grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe.  
*"Abraham GAVE a tenth part of all" – "Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils" Hebrews 7:2, 4*  
Note: Abraham gave his tithe to Melchizedek king of Salem, a priest of God Most High who was God's representative. He gave the tithe four hundred years before the law.
- D. The tithe is confirmed in the New Testament where Jesus said, in reference to the tithe,  
*"These ye ought to have done" Matthew 23:23*
- E. We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.  
*"The tithe is the Lord's" Leviticus 27:30*

This Doctrinal Statement as revised and approved by the membership of Faith Church of Linden on the 28th day of January, 2018, shall supersede and cancel the previous Doctrinal Statement.