

Statement of Faith Fresh Start Church – Kalamazoo

Fresh Start Church stands in the historic, evangelical faith as expressed by the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds (found at the end of this document) . We also affirm the belief in the present and active supernatural work of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by miraculous acts and the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

In particular, Fresh Start Church affirms the following beliefs.

- I. We believe in God the eternal¹ creator² and ruler³ over all creation. We believe He exists as the One, True⁴ God in three Persons⁵ – Father, Son and Holy Spirit⁶ - of one Substance⁷.

¹ *Romans 1:20; 1Timothy 1:17; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 43:13.*

² *Genesis 1:1; Psalm 95:5-6.*

³ *Psalm 11:4; Psalm 47:2; Psalm 103:19.*

⁴ *Isaiah 44:6; Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3.*

⁵ *John 10:30; John 14:9,16,26; 2Corinthians 3:17,18.*

⁶ *Matthew 28:19-20; 2Corinthians 13:14.*

⁷ *John 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17; Philippians 2:5-6.*

- II. We believe that human beings were created originally good in God's image¹. In the Garden, Adam deliberately rebelled against God² bringing death and judgment into the world³. All humans are now equally sinful by nature⁴ and choice⁵ and are under God's just condemnation⁶.

¹ *Genesis 1:26-27,31*

² *Genesis 3:1-6*

³ *Romans 5:12-19*

⁴ *Romans 3:23; 1Corinthians 15:22; Ephesians 2:1-3,5.*

⁵ *Romans 1:21,28-32*

⁶ *Romans 1,18; Romans 2:5; 2Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 5:6.*

- III. We believe that Jesus is both fully human¹ and fully God². He came to earth as a human, born of the virgin Mary³ and lived a sinless, perfect life⁴.

¹ *John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14,17*

² *John 1:1-4; Philippians 2:5-7; Hebrews 1:3*

³ *Luke 1:31-35*

⁴ *Hebrews 4:15; 2Corinthians 5:21.*

- IV. We believe that Jesus willingly gave His life and died on a cross to pay for our sins¹ taking the punishment that was due us upon Himself². We believe that He was physically resurrected from the dead³, thereby completely defeating death, sin and Satan⁴.

¹ *Isaiah 53:5-12; John 1:29; Romans 5:18-19; 1Corinthians 15:3; Galatians 1:4; Hebrews 9:26; 1Peter 2:24.*

² *Romans 1:18; Romans 2:12; Romans 4:25; Romans 5:6-9; Galatians 3:13.*

³ *Luke 24:1-7; 1Corinthians 15:4*

⁴ *Romans 6:9-10; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14-15.*

- V. We believe that by accepting Jesus' sacrificial death and giving Him ownership of our lives¹, we enter into an eternal relationship with God² – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that this new life is a result of God's grace extended to us and not earned by any good works we may do³.

¹ *John 17:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 10:9-10; 1John 4:15.*

² *John 3:36; Romans 5:1-2; 2Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 4:4-7; 1Peter 1:23.*

³ *Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:4-7, Titus 3:5-7.*

- VI. We believe that the Holy Spirit lives within each believer¹ to provide guidance, help and instruction to live out the Christian life². We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit³ and in the exercise of all the biblical gifts of the Spirit⁴. We believe He empowers our lives to serve the Church⁵ and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world⁶.

¹ *Romans 5:5; Romans 8:9-11*

² *John 14:26; John 16:7-11,13*

³ *Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:15-17*

⁴ *1Corinthians 12:7-11; 1Corinthians 14:1,5.*

⁵ *Luke 24:49; John 14:12; Acts 4:31.*

⁶ *Acts 1:8*

- VII. We believe that the Kingdom of God was inaugurated by the ministry of Jesus Christ¹, that it continues in the work of the Holy Spirit through the Church² and will culminate in the visible return of Jesus³ to judge and rule the earth⁴.

¹ *Mathew 4:23; Mathew 12:28; Luke 4:43; Luke 8:1.*

² *Mathew 10:7-8; Mathew 24:14, John 15:26-27; John 16:7-15; Romans 14:17.*

³ *Daniel 7:13-14; Mark 13:26; Acts 1:9-11; 2Thessalonians 2:8.*

⁴ *2Timothy 4:1; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:11-15.*

- VIII. We believe that the Bible, in the original manuscripts, is the inspired, infallible Word of God¹ and that it is our final authority in matters of faith and practice².

¹ *Matthew 24:35; Luke 1:1-4; 1Thessalonians 2:13; 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.*

² *Mathew 7:24; James 1:22-24.*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.