

## **JEROME PRAIRIE BIBLE CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **A. The Scriptures**

We believe the scriptures, made up of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed, the final authority for faith and life and the only so inspired book. *Lk. 24:44-45; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Rev. 22:18-19.*

### **B. The Godhead**

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections. *Gen. 1:1-2, 26; Deut. 6:4; Mt. 28:18-20; Jn. 1:1-3; 2 Cor. 13:14.*

### **C. The Creation and Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but through Adam's sin all mankind fell, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, being separated from God. Thus all mankind inherited a sinful nature, and is now totally depraved, and unable to save themselves. *Gen. 1:26; 3:1-24; Jn. 3:3-7; Rom. 3:23-28, 4:2-5, 5:6-19; Eph. 2:8-9.*

### **D. The Person and Work of Christ**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God to man and redeem sinful man. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a vicarious sacrifice, and that He confirmed our justification by His physical resurrection from the dead. *Mt. 1:18-25; Lk. 13:1-35; Jn. 1:1-3, 1:14, 1:18; Acts 10:34-43; Rom. 3:21-28; 4:24-25.* He ascended into heaven where He reigns as the Head of His Church, the Body of Christ, interceding for believers until He literally returns to claim His Bride, the Church, to spend eternity in His presence. *Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Thes. 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Zech. 14:4-11.*

### **E. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit, as the third person of the Godhead, convicts of sin, regenerates all who believe, baptizing them at conversion into the Body of Christ. He seals believers for the day of redemption, indwelling them eternally, endowing each believer uniquely with gifts for ministry. He guides believers into understanding and applying the Scripture to life. We believe being "filled with the Spirit" is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit and continual thankfulness. His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for every believer to lead a life of Christ-like character, bearing fruit to the glory of the Father. *Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9-14; 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 13; Eph. 1:13-14, 5:18-21; Gal. 5:22-23. 1 Cor. 2:9-14; 6:19-20; Heb. 9:14.*

### **F. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God, offered to man by grace and received by personal faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ apart from works or ceremony. We believe that all true believers are eternally secure in Christ. *Jn. 1:11-12; 3:16, 10:27-30; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Jn. 5:11-12.*

### **G. The Church**

We believe that the Church is a spiritual family, the Body of Christ, that began at Pentecost, and is made up of all true believers of this dispensation, distinct from Israel, and functions with Christ as the head for the purpose of glorifying God by making disciples of all nations. The church exists in local expression for edifying believers and evangelizing unbelievers. It is built up by the gifted ministry of its members as they serve one another in the love of Christ, under the authority of godly leadership,

coming together for worship, prayer, fellowship and the teaching of the Word, observing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. *Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-47; 5:11; Rom.9:3-4; 1 Cor. 11:1, 23-28; 12:13; 14:18-19; Eph.4:1-16; 1 Pet. 4:7-11.*

#### **H. The Believer's Lifestyle**

We believe each believer is called to walk by faith in dependence upon Christ, obeying the Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Believers serve Him in the local church in cooperation with its leadership, in the area of their giftedness, fellowshiping faithfully in the family, honoring Him with their giving, being diligent to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Believers are Christ's witnesses to the world, boldly declaring by word and deed, Christ's power to save until He comes, always seeking to spread His message to all peoples. *Mt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 5:5-10; Eph. 2:10; 5:1-21; Heb. 13:15-17; Jas. 1:19-27; 1 Pet. 3:8-16.*

#### **I. Satan**

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the author of sin, who, though defeated at the cross, continues to live as the believer's adversary until the Lord condemns him to his eternal destiny in the lake of fire. *Job 1:6-12; Mat. 4:1-8; Jn. 8:44; 1 Jn. 3:8; 1 Pet.5:8-9; Rev. 20:2,10.*

## **J. The Eternal State**

We believe that the eternal destiny of each person is sealed at death. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men: believers to the blessings of eternal life and unbelievers to conscious and everlasting punishment. *Lk. 13:22-29; Jn. 5:24-29; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15.*

## **K. Unity & Authority**

We believe that the unity of the Church is a unique declaration of Father's love for the world. Relationships between believers within the church family are a significant visual demonstration of the truth we proclaim. Each believer is expected to work to resolve any matter of offense that may arise with another believer in accordance with the pattern of *Mt. 5:23-24; 18:15-17* and *Gal. 6:1-2.*

We believe our statement of faith to be an accurate summary of the foundational teachings of the Bible, not an exhaustive declaration of our beliefs. The Bible speaks with absolute authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind; it is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of Jerome Prairie Bible Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the board of elders is the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. We view other points of doctrine, not articulated here, as non-essential to salvation and the believer's life of faith and godliness. All members are to actively avoid divisiveness in all things, including other doctrinal matters not included in this statement of faith. *Jn. 17:14-23; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:6-7; 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:14-26; Ti. 3:9-11; 1 Pet.4:7-8.*

## **L. Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

We believe all people are created in God's image and likeness as male and female, and our sexual identity is a gift from God established at birth. We affirm God's unique design for each of the two genders – male and female – believing each is a part of His glorious plan to reflect His image and character. Our sexuality is to be an expression of our faith offered back to Him in accord with His Word. For some, this means joining together in a one man one woman covenant of marriage – for procreation, union, and mutual delight; reflecting the love of God to one another.

For others, this means celibacy, which allows for pure undivided devotion to Christ. Intimate sexual expression is designed exclusively for the marital relationship. All other intimate sexual activity outside of marriage is contrary to God's design for believers and is forbidden. *Mt. 18:4-9; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 15-20; 7:1-40; Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-9*

We hold to the Biblical truths about male and female differences while reaching out with Biblical compassion, redemption, and healing to those identifying themselves as LGBT or other identity perspectives. Hateful or harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are not in accord with God's Word and are to be repudiated. *Rom. 15:7; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 4:29-32; Heb. 3:12-13; Jas. 2:1-13*

## **M. Family**

We believe God has ordained the family as the foundation of a society and the primary unit of discipleship. The mother and father, serving together as husband and wife, are mutually accountable to God to disciple their children to love the Lord and follow the Savior, through consistent teaching by lifestyle, declaration, and correction. *Deut. 6:4-7; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21; Prov. 22:6; 15; 23:13-14.*