

Our Declaration of Faith

*There is a God. This is his world, and we with it. This God is totally good and totally competent. He comes to us in Jesus Christ, whom we can totally trust. He gives us a book and a history, through which his Spirit will lead us to all we need to know about him and about us.*¹

Created as a Christian and faith-based organization, the Leadership Team of **the Well** has agreed upon this “declaration of faith”. While our faith is dynamic and active, grounded in a continual relationship with the living God, our trust is guided and founded upon the historical revelation of God in the Bible and through his people. Therefore, these unchanging statements of our vibrant faith serve as a guide in our relationships and efforts.

- **In all essential beliefs - we have unity.** – *There is one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* – Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)
- **In nonessential beliefs - we have liberty.** – *Accept Christians who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong...Who are you to condemn God's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him tell them whether they are right or wrong. The Lord's power will help them do as they should... Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God. ... You may have the faith to believe that there is nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God.* – Romans 14:1,4,12,22 (NLT)
- **In all our beliefs - we show love.** – *If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.* – 1 Corinthians 13:2 (MSG)

The essentials we believe:

- **About God:** God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (Ge 1:1, 26-27, 3:2; Ps 90:2; Mt 28:19; 1Pe 1:2; 2Co 13:14)
- **About Jesus Christ:** Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate his power over sin and death. He ascended to heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Mt 1:22-23; Isa 9:6; Jn 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Heb 4:14-15; 1Co 15:3-4; Ro 1:3-4; Ac 1:9-11; 1Ti 6:14-15; Tit 2:13)
- **About the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives believers spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under his control daily. (2Co 3:17; Jn 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Ac 1:8; 1Co 2:12, 3:16; Eph 1:13, 5:8; Gal 5:25)
- **About the Bible:** The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and

¹ Dallas Willard, “Spiritual Formation in the Local Congregation,” *Renovation of the Heart*, p 249.

living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. (2Ti 3:16; 2Pe 1:20-21; 2Ti 1:13; Ps 119:105, 119:160, 12:6; Pr 30:5)

- **About Human Beings:** People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like him in character and person. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. (Ge 1:27; Ps 8:3-6; Isa 53:6a; Ro 3:23)
- **About Salvation:** Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ and receiving God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. (Ro 6:23; Eph 2:8-9; Jn 14:6, 1:12; Tit 3:5; Gal 3:26; Ro 5:1)
- **About the Church:** We believe that the universal church, the body of Christ, consists of all believers regardless of organizational affiliation and that Christ commanded for his church the observance of water baptism and the Lord's Supper until he returns. (Col 1:18; Eph 4:4-6; Ac 1:5, 11:15-16; 1Co 12:13; 1Th 4:13-17; Mt 16:18, 28:19; 1Co 11:24-26)

We also believe the local church should be a witness to the contemporary world. Without compromising biblical absolutes, its ministry, worship, and teaching should creatively adapt to the particular culture it feels called to reach.

- **About Eternity:** People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with him is eternal life. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence. (Jn 3:16, 2:25, 5:11-13; Ro 6:23; Rev 20:15; Mt 1:8, 2:44-46)