

# Faith Community Christian Church

## Doctrinal Statement

### **Mission Statement**

“With God’s guidance, to bring people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and membership in His family. In communion with the Holy Spirit, to disciple to maturity, equip for ministry and send forth to fulfill the Great Commission and magnify His name.”

### **The Triune God**

We believe there is only one true and living God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Three in one and one in three. He is Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnipresent. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

(Genesis 1; Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 5:16; 6:1-7; 40:18-31; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 14:6-27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:13-18)

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity; that He was eternally one with the Father; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. We believe in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross of Calvary, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ and accepts Him by faith as Lord and Savior is justified, regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin and will inherit Eternal Life.

(Matthew 1:20-25; 16:15-16; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-18; Acts 2:22-36; Romans 8:3, 32-34; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:12-22; 1 Timothy 6:14-16; Hebrews 1:1-5; 7:22-28; 9:24-28; 1 John 1:1-3; 4:2-3, 15)

### **Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, that He is ever present and efficiently active in and through the Church of Christ, convincing and convicting the world of sin, regenerating those who believe and repent, bearing witness to the new birth, sanctifying believers, comforting those who yield to Him and guiding all into truth as it is in Jesus. We believe that the Holy Spirit bestows gifts upon Christians and that all the gifts of the Spirit are available today and that spiritual fruit is the evidence of a Spirit-filled life. We believe that it is the will of God that we walk in the Spirit daily and He leads and empowers Christians to live a godly life in this present world.

(John 7:39; 14:15-18, 26; 16:7-15; Acts 2:33; 15:8-9; Romans 8:1-27; Galatians 3:1-14; 4:6, 5:22; Ephesians 3:14-21, 4:30-32; I Thessalonians 4:7-8; II Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 1:2; I John 3:24; 4:13; I Corinthians 12:1-11)

### **Holy Scriptures**

We believe the Bible consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, inerrant, infallible and authoritative Word of God. We believe the Bible was given to mankind to reveal the Will of God concerning all things. We believe that the Holy Scriptures contains all we need to know about our salvation and how we are to live our lives. We also state that whatever is not contained in the Holy Scriptures shall not be enjoined by our doctrine of faith.

(Luke 24:44-47; John 10:35; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

## **The Church**

We believe in the Church as the community that confesses Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as Lord and Savior, the covenant people of God made new in Christ, the Body of Christ called together by the Holy Spirit. We believe the mission of the Church in the world is to continue the redemptive work of Christ in the power of the Spirit through holy living, service, evangelism, and discipleship. We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ. God calls the Church to express its life in the unity and fellowship of the Spirit.

The local Church exists both as a congregation and as part of Christ's church to set apart persons called of God for specific ministries, to be a place of worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, participation of the sacraments, and fellowship to strengthen our Christian faith and have mutual accountability. The local Church also belongs as part of Christ's Church Universal.

(Exodus 19:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Matthew 8:11; 10:7; 16:13-19, 24; 18:15-20; 28:19-20; John 17:14-26; 20:21-23; Acts 1:7-8; 2:32-47; 6:1-2; 13:1; 14:23; Romans 2:28-29; 4:16; 10:9-15; 11:13-32; 12:1-8; 15:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 7:17; 11:1, 17-33; 12:3, 12-31; 14:26-40; 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:1; Galatians 5:6, 13-14; 6:1-5, 15; Ephesians 4:1-17; 5:25-27; Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:19-25; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 13; 2:4-12, 21; 4:1-2, 10-11; 1 John 4:17; Jude 24; Revelation 5:9-10)

## **The Fall of Man**

We believe that mankind was created in the image of God, as a free moral agent, and that sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve who by disobedience sinned against God, which brought both physical and spiritual death to us all. Since that time, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and inclined to sin continually. We believe that all mankind has fallen short of the Glory of God and without His Love and Grace is hopelessly and eternally damned to hell.

(Genesis 3:1-8)

## **Sin**

We believe that there are two kinds of sin: original sin and personal sin. We believe that original sin differs from personal sin in that it constitutes an inherited tendency to actual sin for which no one is accountable until God's divinely provided remedy is neglected or rejected. We further believe that original sin continues to exist with the life of mankind until the heart is fully cleansed by the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

We believe that personal sin is a voluntary violation of a known law of God by a morally responsible person. It is therefore not to be confused with involuntary and inescapable shortcomings, infirmities, faults, mistakes, or failures. However, such innocent actions do not include attitudes, responses or willful conduct that is contrary to the spirit of Christ or the Law.

(Original sin: Genesis 3; 6:5; Job 15:14; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:18-25; 5:12-14; 7:1-8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 John 1:7-8)

(Personal sin: Matthew 22:36-40 {with 1 John 3:4}; John 8:34-36; 16:8-9; Romans 3:23; 6:15-23; 8:18-24; 14:23; 1 John 1:9-2:4; 3:7-10)

## **The Plan of Salvation**

We believe that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us and by His sufferings, by the shedding of His own blood, and by His death on the Cross, made a full atonement for all human sin, and that this Atonement is the only ground of salvation, and that it is sufficient for every individual of Adam's race. The Atonement is graciously sufficient for the salvation of the irresponsible and for the children in their innocence but when one reaches the age of responsibility one must believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of mankind and accept Him as their personal Savior, ask for forgiveness of their sins and repent, and only then is the Atonement effective for their salvation thus accepting the pardon of all who believe on Him.

(Isaiah 53:5-6, 11; Mark 10:45; Luke 24:46-48; John 1:29; 3:14-17; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 3:21-26; 4:17-25; 5:6-21; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Galatians 1:3-4; 3:13-14; Colossians 1:19-23; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:9; 9:11-14; 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18-21; 2:19-25; 1 John 2:1-2)

## **Free Agency and Preventive Grace**

We believe that because man was created in the image of God, man has the ability to choose between right and wrong and because of this man is made morally responsible for his/her choices. We believe that through the fall of Adam man became depraved so that they cannot now turn and prepare themselves by their own natural strength and works to faith and calling upon God. But we also believe that the grace of God through Jesus Christ is freely bestowed upon all people, enabling all who will to turn to Jesus and from sin to righteousness, believe on Jesus Christ for pardon and cleansing from sin, will have the Strength of the Holy Spirit to enable them to do good works pleasing and acceptable in His sight.

(Godlikeness and moral responsibility: Genesis 1:26-27; 2:16-17; Deuteronomy 28:1-2; 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 8:3-5; Isaiah 1:8-10; Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:1-4; Micah 6:8; Romans 1:19-20; 2:1-16; 14:7-12; Galatians 6:7-8)

(Natural inability: Job 14:4; 15:14; Psalms 14:1-4; 51:5; John 3:6a; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12-14, 20a; 7:14-25)

(Free grace and works of faith: Ezekiel 18:25-26; John 1:12-13; 3:6b; Acts 5:31; Romans 5:6-8, 18; 6:15-16, 23; 10:6-8; 11:22; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; 10:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 Timothy 4:10a; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12-15; 6:4-6; 10:26-31; James 2:18-22; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2:20-22)

## **Repentance**

We believe that repentance, which is a sincere and thorough change of the mind and heart in regard to sin, which involves a sense of personal guilt and a voluntary turning away from sin, is demanded of all who have by act or purpose become sinners against God. The Spirit of God gives to all who will repent the gracious help of penitence of heart. We believe that upon sincere repentance, and a whole-hearted acceptance of Christ, we are justified before God

(2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalms 32:5-6; 51:1-17; Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 3:12-14; Ezekiel 18:30-32; 33:14-16; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 3:1-14; 13:1-5; 18:9-14; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30-31; 26:16-18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:8-11; 1 John 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:9)

## **Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption**

We believe that justification is the gracious and judicial act of God by which He grants full pardon of all guilt and complete release from the penalty of sins committed, and acceptance as righteous, to all who believe on Jesus Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

We believe that regeneration, or the new birth, is that gracious work of God whereby the moral nature of the repentant believer is spiritually quickened and given a distinctively spiritual life, capable of faith, love, and obedience.

We believe that adoption is that gracious act of God by which the justified and regenerated believer is constituted a son or daughter of God.

We believe that justification, regeneration, and adoption are simultaneous in the experience of seekers after God and are obtained upon the condition of faith, preceded by repentance; and that to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

(Luke 18:14; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 5:24; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17; 3:21-26, 28; 4:5-9, 17-25; 5:1, 16-19; 6:4; 7:6; 8:1, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:16-21; 3:1-14, 26; 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:1, 4-5; Philippians 3:3-9; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 1:9; 3:1-2, 9; 4:7; 5:1, 9-13, 18)

## **Baptism**

We believe that Christian baptism, which is commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atoning work of Jesus Christ and is to be administered to believers who declare their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, repent of their sins and will strive to live an obedient life pursuing holiness and righteousness with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that baptism is an outward sign of an inward work and immersion is to be the preferred method of Baptism. But the Sacrament of Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the circumstances or choice of the applicant.

*Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.*

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

## **Baptism With the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is to empower the believer; and that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is of the same manner as it was on the Day of Pentecost as the same manner as in Bible days.

(Acts 2:4)

## **The Lord's Supper**

We believe that the Memorial and Communion Supper instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a New Testament sacrament. We believe in the commemoration of the Lord's Supper by the symbolic use of the bread and juice of the vine.

It is distinctively for those who are prepared for reverent appreciation of its significance, and only those who have faith in Christ should be called to participate therein.

(Exodus 12:1-14; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; John 6:28-58; 1 Corinthians 10:14-21; 11:23-32; I Corinthians 11:24, 25)

## **Divine Healing**

We believe that divine healing is the power of Christ to heal the sick and urge our people to seek to offer the prayer of faith for those who are ill. We also believe God heals through the means of medical science.

(2 Kings 5:1-19; Psalm 103:1-5; Matthew 4:23-24; 9:18-35; John 4:46-54; Acts 5:12-16; 9:32-42; 14:8-15; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 5:13-16)

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

We believe that the second coming of Christ is personal, imminent. We believe that when the Lord Jesus Christ comes again, we who are alive at His coming shall not precede them that are asleep in Christ Jesus but that, if we are abiding in Him, we shall be caught up with the risen saints to meet the Lord in the air, so that we shall ever be with the Lord.

(Matthew 25:31-46; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:26-28; 2 Peter 3:3-15; Revelation 1:7-8; 22:7-20)

## **Heaven**

We believe that Heaven is the glorious eternal home of born-again believers.

(John 14:1-3; Revelation 7:15-17)

## **Hell**

We believe that hell is the place of eternal torment for all who reject Christ as their Savior.

(Revelation 20:10,15)

## **Final Judgment**

We believe in future judgment in which every person shall stand some day before the judgment seat of God to be judged according to his or her deeds in this life.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead, that the bodies both of the just and of the unjust shall be raised to life and united with their spirits and that glorious and everlasting life is assured to all who savingly believe in, and obediently follow, Jesus Christ our Lord; and that the finally unrepentant shall suffer eternally in hell.

(Genesis 18:25; 1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 50:6; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; 20:27-38; John 3:16-18; 5:25-29; 11:21-27; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:1-16; 14:7-12; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:11-15; 22:1-15)

## **Evangelism**

We believe that soul winning is the most important responsibility of the Church.

(James 5:20)

## **Tithes and Offerings**

We believe that the method ordained of God for the support and spread of His cause is by giving of tithes and free-will offerings.

(Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

## **Doctrine of Marriage**

Marriage is a union ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis, codified in the Levitical law, the Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and his people, examples of it are in the historical narratives, and, the wisdom literature discusses the unique unity of this relationship. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God. Due to the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, Faith Community Christian Church (FCCC) adopts the following policy:

### **Clergy:**

1. Only duly appointed and/or licensed clergy shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on church property.
2. Clergy appointed by FCCC shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination and/or loss of licensure for officiating a same gender marriage ceremony.

### **Applicants:**

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy appointed by FCCC, or to use the church facilities, shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.

## **Doctrine of Marriage (Continued)**

2. Applicants shall receive premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by the FCCC or other persons who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church, have appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling.

### **Premises:**

1. Any marriage on church premises shall be officiated by a duly ordained and/or licensed clergy and must be approved by the Board of Elders.
2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. The clergy assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Doctrine of Marriage may, in his sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at, a ceremony when, in his judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.

### **Language:**

### **Marriage:**

Marriage has been ordained and instituted by God. The church defines “marriage” as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government’s sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of “marriage” found in these Articles.

### **Human Sexuality:**

Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as “porneia”) including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior and the creation and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness.

### **Minister, Board Members & Employee Qualifications:**

All Clergy, Ministry Leaders, Board Members or employees shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.

(Note: For employees, the above qualifications must be part of a written employment contract, i.e., consideration is exchanged by the parties. “At will” employment relationships will seriously undermine the religious organization’s ability to enforce moral conduct requirements).

### **Member Qualifications:**

Every member shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and behave in a manner that is consistent therewith.

### **Scripture:**

#### **One man and one woman**

Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18-24, Proverbs 18:22, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:6-9, 1 Corinthians 7:1-3, 1 Timothy 3:1-3, Titus 1:6

## **Doctrine of Marriage (Continued)**

### **How a husband treats his wife and how a wife treats her husband**

Ephesians 5:21-33, Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Peter 3:1-2, 1 Peter 3:7

### **Honor marriage**

Hebrews 13:4, Proverbs 12:4

### **Unacceptable Behavior**

Genesis 34:1-7, Leviticus 18:1-30, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:24-28, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

### **Doctrine of Marriage In Summary**

Our church follows what the Bible reveals as the "sure foundation" of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles (Matthew 7:24-29 and I Corinthians 14:37). The church is called to teach and practice these teachings and is not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority if it is to authentically bear the name "Christian." Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, in instances involving matters as foundational as marriage, we must ultimately obey God rather than man if the two come into conflict (Acts 4:18-22).

We Christians who attempt to follow Biblical mandates on sex and marriage are not immune to expressing our own sexuality in sinful ways, for "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" (Rom. 3:23). We must always be mindful of this and humbly relate to others accepting that we all are fallen creatures.

At the same time, all human beings deserve to be treated with dignity and respect because each of us bears the image of God. Every LGBTQ person deserves dignity and is respected no less than any other, and we, as Christians, should demonstrate this in our thoughts, speech, and behavior. Speech, including humor which demeans LGBTQ people, has no place in the Christian community and will not be tolerated by this church. Likewise, this means we oppose any mistreatment of those who identify as LGBTQ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.