

GARDEN CITY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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01 God
02 Jesus
03 Holy Spirit
04 The Church
05 Marriage
06 The Bible
07 Communion
08 Baptisms
09 Sin
10 Salvation
11 Resurrection
12 Eternity & The Kingdom
13 Human Sexuality
14 Gifts of the Holy Spirit
15 Women in Ministry
16 Politics and the Church
17 Sanctity of Life

01

GOD

We believe God is a Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each an uncreated person — one in essence, equal in power and glory. We believe in God the Father, Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth.

> GENESIS 1:1 (NKJV)
> **1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

> PSALM 90:2 (NKJV)
> **2** Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

> MATTHEW 3:16–17 (NKJV)
> **16** When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.
> **17** And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

02

JESUS

We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is fully God and fully man. He was crucified, dead, and buried. He rose again on the third day. He ascended to heaven and now sits in authority at the right hand of God the Father. He will return to claim his Church, judge mankind, and establish His earthly kingdom.

> ACTS 10:38–43 (NKJV)
> 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

> HEBREWS 1:2–4 (NKJV)
> 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

> MATTHEW 25:31–32 (NKJV)
> 31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

03

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is God, the Lord, and giver of life, who was given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit empowers Christ-followers to serve

and share their faith, cleanses man from the old nature, and shapes us into the image of Christ.

> ACTS 2:1–4 (NKJV)
>
> 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

> JOHN 16:7–14 (NKJV)
>
> 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
>
> 12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

> GALATIANS 3:22–23 (NKJV)
>
> 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

04

THE CHURCH

We believe in the Church, the bride of Christ, whose goal is to make disciples throughout the world. This global Church comprises many local fellowships. We affirm those fellowships that see Jesus Christ as Lord and the only way to Heaven.

> ACTS 2:46–47 (NKJV)
>
> 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the **temple**, and breaking bread from **house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

MATTHEW 28:19–20 (NKJV)

19 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, 20 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." Amen.

05

MARRIAGE

We believe in the Biblical definition of marriage: one man and one woman committed to each other in a union of mutual love, faithfulness, and respect. Marriage exists to be a picture of the unchanging love Christ has for His own bride, the Church.

GENESIS 2:18 (NKJV)

18 And the Lord God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

GENESIS 2:22–24 (NKJV)

22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said:

"This *is* now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man."

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

MATTHEW 19:4–6 (NKJV)

4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning '*made them male and female*,' 5 and said, '*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

> EPHESIANS 5:31–33 (NKJV)
> 31 "*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*" 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
> 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

06

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is the perfect and inspired Word of God. It is our source of all doctrine, instruction and correction. It provides practical guidance for everyday life. We believe that Jesus is the word made flesh and is the living message (word) of God.

> 2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17 (NKJV)
> 16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

> PSALM 119:103 (NKJV)
> 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste,
> *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

> JOHN 1:1–3 (NKJV)
> 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

07

COMMUNION

We believe in communion as a commemoration of Christ's death and will continue to do it in His memory until He comes again. It is a sign of our relationship with Him.

> 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 (NKJV)
>
> 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."
>
> 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

> MATTHEW 26:26–29 (NKJV)
>
> 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."
>
> 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

08

BAPTISMS

THREE BAPTISMS

We believe the Bible designates three distinct moments of immersion (baptism) in the life of walking with and in God. Our goal here is to provide clarity and not confusion. The Holy Spirit is your counselor for this, trust Him and follow His voice... He will guide you in following Him.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE FOR THREE BAPTISMS

> 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1–2 (NKJV)
>
> 1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
>
> 2 all were baptized **into Moses** in the **cloud** and in the **sea**,

Paul points out 3 distinct Old Testament baptisms to illustrate a fore-runner of the New Covenant. Today we are offered three baptisms:

BAPTISM INTO THE BODY (BY THE HOLY SPIRIT)

We believe the Holy Spirit baptizes (immerses) us in Jesus. Through the washing of the blood of Jesus all mankind can receive the free gift of salvation. It is through the power and urging of the Holy Spirit that one can receive salvation.

> 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13 (NKJV)
> 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

BAPTISM IN WATER (BY BELIEVERS)

We believe water baptism is an outward sign of what God has already done in our lives. We follow Christ's example, and identify with Him through it, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

> MATTHEW 28:19–20 (NKJV)
> 19 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, 20 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." Amen.

> ACTS 16:31–33 (NKJV)
> 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
> 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized.

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (BY JESUS)

We believe in a third immersion (baptism) into the Holy Spirit that is subsequent to conversion. We believe this baptism empowers us to walk in the gifts, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit to build up God's Church.

> MATTHEW 3:11 (NKJV)
> 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but **He** who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He** will **baptize** you **with the Holy Spirit and fire**.

> JOHN 1:33 (NKJV)
> 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

09

SIN

We believe mankind is enslaved to sin. Jesus Christ came to pay the price for our sin on the cross. By His death, we can be in a true relationship with God. His death makes possible the healing of our body, soul, and spirit.

> JOHN 8:34 (NKJV)
> **34** Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

> ROMANS 6:16 (NKJV)
> **16** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

> ROMANS 6:23 (NKJV)
> **23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

> ISAIAH 53:6 (NKJV)
> **6** All we like sheep have gone astray;
> We have turned, every one, to his own way;
> And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

10

SALVATION

Jesus Christ died for our sins as the only sufficient sacrifice, offering atonement for the sin of all mankind through His death, burial, and resurrection. While salvation is available to all, it is only experienced by those who receive His gracious gift by faith, apart from works.

As a result of our new relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, we are called to a life of submission to the Holy Spirit, manifesting spiritual fruit, and walking in good works that God has prepared beforehand for us to do.

JOHN 14:6 (NKJV)

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

ACTS 4:12 (NKJV)

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

JOHN 1:12 (NKJV)

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

EPHESIANS 1:7, 2:8–9 (NKJV)

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

HEBREWS 10:10–14 (NKJV)

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all.*

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

1 JOHN 5:11–13 (NKJV)

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

GALATIANS 3:26 (NKJV)

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

JOHN 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

11

RESURRECTION

We believe in a literal second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and eagerly await the resurrection of those who died in Him. We believe in a literal Heaven and Hell. Christ, based on their relationship with Him, determines the eternal status for saints and unbelievers.

> ROMANS 8:11 (NKJV)
> 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

> 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12–19 (NKJV)
> 12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

12

ETERNITY & THE KINGDOM

We believe everyone will spend eternity in one of two places. The saved will spend eternity in heaven, and the unsaved will spend eternity in hell.

> JOHN 3:15–16 (NKJV)
> 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
> 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

> JOHN 5:24 (NKJV)
> 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

ROMANS 6:23 (NKJV)

23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

REVELATION 20:15 (NKJV)

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

1 JOHN 5:11–12 (NKJV)

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

MATTHEW 25:31–46 (NKJV)

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink?

38 When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*?

39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.'

46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

At the end of all things, God promises to make all things new. He invites us, His followers, to join Him in this work of renewal on earth. The signs of His kingdom coming are salvation, joy, peace, justice, God's presence, belonging, and healing.

> REVELATION 21:5 (NKJV)
> 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

13

HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that every person is created in the image of God with inherent dignity, value, and purpose. We affirm that God's design for human sexuality is expressed within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6). Sexual activity outside of this context — including same-sex relationships — is outside of God's intended design. We believe that God created humanity as male and female, and that our biological sex is a part of His purposeful design.

> GENESIS 1:27 (NKJV)
> 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

> PSALM 139:13–14 (NKJV)
> 13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.
> 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

14

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit empowers every believer with spiritual gifts for the building up of the Church and the advancement of God's mission. These gifts are

diverse and include teaching, leadership, service, encouragement, healing, prophecy, tongues, and more. We believe that all the gifts of the Spirit are active and available today, and are to be used in love, humility, and order, under the guidance of Scripture. Every believer is encouraged to discover, develop, and use their gifts to serve others and glorify God.

> ROMANS 12:6–8 (NKJV)
> 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
> 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
> 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

> 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4–11 (NKJV)
> 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
> 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
> 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.
> 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
> 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
> 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
> 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.
> 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

15

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

We believe that men and women are equally created in God's image, redeemed in Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead and serve in the Church according to their gifts and calling. Scripture affirms the active role of women in ministry — from prophets and leaders in the Old Testament to apostles, teachers, and church leaders in the New Testament. Leadership in the Church is based on spiritual gifting and

character, not gender. We affirm the full inclusion of women in all areas of ministry, including preaching, teaching, pastoring, and leadership. We are committed to equipping and releasing both women and men to serve together for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

> GENESIS 1:27 (NKJV)
> 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

> GALATIANS 3:28 (NKJV)
> 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

> ACTS 2:17–18 (NKJV)
> 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.
> 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

16

POLITICS AND THE CHURCH

We believe our primary mission is to preach the gospel and make disciples. While we do not endorse political parties or candidates, we encourage believers to be salt and light in the world — engaging politics with wisdom, integrity, and love based on the word of God. We seek to maintain unity in Christ above political differences and foster respectful dialogue rooted in Scripture. Our ultimate hope is in God's Kingdom, not in earthly systems or leaders.

> MATTHEW 5:13–16 (NKJV)
> 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.
> 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

> **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.
>
> **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

17

SANCTITY OF LIFE

We believe all human life is sacred, created in the image of God, and worthy of dignity and protection from conception to natural death. This includes the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, and the vulnerable. We oppose abortion and euthanasia, and we affirm the call to protect and care for life in all forms. As a church, we seek to support those in difficult situations with compassion, truth, and grace, while offering hope and healing through Jesus Christ.

> GENESIS 1:27 (NKJV)
>
> **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

> PSALM 139:13–16 (NKJV)
>
> **13** For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.
>
> **14** I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.
>
> **15** Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.
>
> **16** How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!



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