

MISSIONVIEW CHURCH
1424 Killian Road
Akron, Ohio 44312-4736
(330) 645-2681 FAX (330) 645-2686

STATEMENT OF FAITH & CONSTITUTION

As Adopted February 18, 2013

The purpose of MissionView Church is to worship God, strengthen the believer, provide the message of hope to the world, build community, and serve others for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

- I. **CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**: The statement of faith that must be affirmed in order to become a member of MissionView Church.
 - A. The Bible is God's inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word. (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:89; 1 Peter 1:23, 25).
 - B. There is one God, who exists as three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2).
 - C. Jesus Christ is fully God and entered human form by the miracle of the virgin birth, lived a sinless life, and died for our sins. He rose again on the third day (Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1, 14, 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:3; 1 John 2:1).
 - D. The Holy Spirit is God. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, convict the world of sin, and minister to the believer (John 3:3-6, 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:8).
 - E. All people are created in the image of God but because of Adam's sin, they are sinful by nature and choice. Apart from forgiveness through Jesus Christ, all are lost and alienated from God (Genesis 1:27, 3:1-6; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3).
 - F. Salvation rests solely on the work of God's grace. Christ's death is the only payment for sin that God will accept. All who believe in Christ are born again and become the children of God (John 1:12-13; Ephesians 2:8-9). All believers, once saved, are secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39).

G. The saved will be resurrected in body and be raised to eternal intimacy with God in His presence in a new earth and heaven. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal wrath in Hell (Luke 16:19-31, 23:43; Revelation 20:11-15).

ii. **LEADERSHIP AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** The statement of faith that must be affirmed in its entirety in order to serve in a leadership position at MissionView Church (e.g. elder, pastor, staff, community group leader, etc.). The leader furthermore agrees not to oppose or teach anything contrary to what is contained in this affirmation of faith.

A. The Scriptures

The Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God and every part of it is fully and equally inspired. Different men utilizing their own styles and personalities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit recorded God's very words without error in the original writings. We are therefore committed to the Bible as the final authority for the Christian faith and standard for all of life (Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21, 3:16; Revelation 22:18-19).

B. The Triune God

There is only one true, eternal, living God, who is sovereign over all things and is the creator and sustainer of life. While in essence one, God exists in three co-equal and co-eternal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with the same attributes and perfections but yet with distinct and complementary roles (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19-20; John 1:1, 14; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 1:15-17).

1. God: the Father

God the Father is the Father of all creation, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the eternal spiritual Father of all who believe in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:3; Hebrews 12:9).

2. God: the Son

Jesus Christ, in accordance with the will of His Father, took on human flesh. Conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary. Being fully God and fully man, He lived a sinless life and sacrificially shed His blood and laid down His life, dying on the cross in our place. He rose from the grave three days later, guaranteeing the victory over sin, and accomplished redemption for all who place their faith in Him. He ascended into heaven, where at the Father's right hand, He is now Head of His Body the Church, the only Savior and Mediator between God and man, the High Priest of the believer, and will one day return to earth in power and glory to fulfill His redemptive purpose (Isaiah 7:14; 53:4-6; Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:26-27, 35; John 1:1-2, 14-18; Acts 1:9-10; Romans 3:24-25; 8:34; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25; 8:1; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24; 1 John 2:1-2).

3. God: the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit in all that He does exalts and glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws the world to repentance and faith, and at salvation imparts new spiritual life to the believer, bringing that person into union with Christ and the Body of Christ. In order to bring about Christlikeness, the Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, convicts, equips, empowers, permanently indwells at salvation, and gives spiritual gifts to the believer for service (John 3:3-7, 14:6, 16:7-11, 13-15; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22, 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18; Colossians 3:16; 1 John 2:20-27).

C. Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation in which God created the universe, angels, and man. Before this act, nothing but God existed. We reject any theories which indicate that humanity and living substances evolved from nonliving substances. We recognize that God, in His image, personally created Adam and Eve as complete human beings and that all of humanity descends from them (Genesis 1, 2; Ex. 20:11; Psalm 33:6; Mark 10:6; John 1:3, 10; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3).

D. Humanity

Humanity was created in the image and likeness of God, but through

Adam's sin all sinned in him. All humanity fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; mankind is totally depraved, sinful by nature and conduct, and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition (Genesis 1:26–27; Romans 3:22–23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1–3, 12).

E. Salvation

Salvation is the gift of eternal life which God provides by grace to anyone who will accept it. Salvation is received through a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed in His death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Every saved person is a new creation in Christ and has received a new nature, which is created in righteousness and true holiness. However, the tendency to sin continues to be within our flesh throughout our earthly life. While that new nature enables the believer, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to resist sin, all claims to the eradication of sin and/or tendency to sin in this life are unscriptural (John 1:12, 3:16; Romans 6:6–7; 8:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20, 5:16–25; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8–10, 4:22–24; Colossians 3:9–10; 1 Peter 1:14–19; 2 Peter 1:3–4; 1 John 1:8, 3:5–9).

F. Eternal Security

All believers are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever. While it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation, God's Word does not allow our Christian liberty to become a license to sin (John 16:37–40, 10:27–30, 17:11; Romans 6:1–2, 8:1, 38–9, 13:13–14; 1 Corinthians 1:4–8; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11–15).

G. The Church

Upon placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Church began with the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, is the body and promised bride of Christ made up of all believers of this present age, and is distinct from Israel. The Scriptures command believers to gather locally in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, and fellowship and to observe the ordinances of baptism and communion, serve the local body through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and reach out to the world to make disciples. Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to these commands under the watchful care of a team of elders, there is the local expression of the Church. A church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate

purpose of glorifying Christ (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:42–46; 1 Corinthians 10:32, 14:26; Ephesians 1:22–23, 4:16, 5:25–27).

H. Ordinances

Christian baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. This is symbolized by immersion in water. The Lord's Supper is the remembrance by believers of Christ's death until He comes and should be preceded by a careful self-examination. These ordinances are a scriptural means of testimony and celebration and are not requirements for salvation (Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3–6; 1 Corinthians 11:20–29).

I. Spiritual Gifts

Every believer is to fulfill his or her calling in the church by exercising spiritual gifts in service. The Holy Spirit is sovereign in giving His gifts for the advancement of the church today. Speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles in the early days of the church were for the purpose of pointing others to Christ and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be characteristic of the ongoing lives of believers. Current displays of the gift of tongues distract from the main task of the local church, which is to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20). We believe the Lord continues to perform miracles (John 15:7; Romans 12:4–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 13:8–10; Ephesians 2:19–20, 4:7–12; Hebrews 2:1–4; James 5:13–16; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 John 5:14–15).

J. Angels

Angels are created spirit beings that are immortal, intelligent, powerful, and glorious. They are servants of God and minister to the members of the Body of Christ (Psalm 103:20; Matthew 24:36; Luke 9:26; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:13–14).

K. Satan

Satan is an angelic personality who rebelled against God and became the enemy of God and man. Satan is the author of sin and the tempter in the fall of man. After he fell, he organized his own kingdom which consists of both demons (angels who rebelled against God) and those who have never received Christ. He is currently the ruler of this age who seeks to thwart the work of God, keep the unsaved from being saved, and hinder

and destroy the testimony and ministry of Christians. Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection defeated Satan, who will at the appointed time be cast into the lake of fire together with his evil angels (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11, 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

L. Things to Come

We believe in the pretribulational and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones to establish His Kingdom on earth and reign for 1,000 years (Daniel 9:1-27; Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8; Revelation 1:7, 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:6).

M. Eternity

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The saved will be raised to eternal intimacy with God and dwell in His presence in a new Earth and Heaven. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal wrath in Hell (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26, 23:43; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15).

III. CONSTITUTION

A. Membership

Any person may be received into membership of MissionView Church upon acknowledging his or her faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and by assenting to the Congregational Affirmation of Faith (Amos 3:3) .

B. Promise of Membership

Members will commit to develop their relationship with Christ by maintaining a consistent time of prayer and Bible-reading, and by living in obedience to Him through His Word (Psalm 5:3; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:9). They will treat each other with love, striving to maintain unity in the Body (Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:12-14) and will support the church through prayer and by giving of their time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 12; 2 Corinthians 8, 12). They also agree to be accountable to those God has placed in leadership (Hebrews 13:17).

C. Leadership

1. Elders: The officers of MissionView Church shall be the elders who will have the authority over and general oversight of all church ministries (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
 - a. Government: The elders, in full submission to Christ, will govern the church without a desire for personal gain, prestige, or influence. By virtue of an exemplary life and ministries of sacrificial service, the elders exercise spiritual authority to which the church member is accountable. The elders will exercise general oversight in all areas of ministry and shall be responsible for guarding the Word of God and for exercising church discipline as needed. (Psalm 78:72; Mathew 18:15-17; John 10:11,15; 1 Corinthians 16:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

- b. Appointment: The elders shall be recognized and appointed by the existing elders and affirmed by the congregation (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). An elder shall meet the qualifications of Scripture and will remain in office as long as he fulfills the biblical qualifications or until he is called to serve elsewhere or resigns. An elder may take a leave of absence from the office while maintaining his status as a non-voting elder.
 - c. Accountability: There shall be mutual accountability among all the elders as each man realizes that his position has been granted by God and seeks to fill it with humility, integrity, and diligence. Elders shall regularly review their qualifications in light of Scripture (Proverbs 27:17; Mark 10:45; 2 Corinthians 4:5; James 3:1).
 - d. Legal Responsibilities and Procedures: The elders shall have oversight of all church property. Any transaction to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any land or building in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual budget shall require authorization by majority approval at a meeting of the congregation. The elders shall have the authority to compensate all employees of the church.
2. Lead Pastor: The pastor, operating within his role as an elder, shall lead the work of the ministry and function as a co-equal member of the elder board to accomplish God's purpose for the church. The pastor shall function as servant-leader and be accountable to the elder board (Luke 6:40; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 2:2, 4:2; Titus 1:5).
- a. Call to serve: When the position of pastor becomes vacant, it shall be the duty of the elders to seek out a suitable successor. When a candidate is found and meets with three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) approval of the elders, he shall be recommended to the church membership for approval by three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of those voting.
 - b. Termination of Service: The pastor's ministry may be terminated by a decision of at least three fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of all the other elders, or by resignation.
3. Other Pastoral Staff: Such other pastoral staff members, as may be necessary to fulfill all the ministries of the church, shall be approved by three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) decision of the elders. Salaries shall be determined by the elders. The pastoral staff member's

employment may be terminated by a decision of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the elders, or if the staff member himself is an elder by a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) decision of the other elders, or by resignation. All staff shall be members of MissionView Church.

4. Deacons: Deacons shall be recommended as needed by the elders and affirmed by the congregation as men who fulfill the biblical qualifications in life and practice (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

Deacons shall serve to fill the spiritual and physical needs of the flock as directed by the elders. They will continue to serve as long as they fulfill the biblical qualifications set forth in Scripture or until they are called to serve elsewhere or resign.

D. Members' Meetings

There shall be a minimum of one (1) members' meeting per year.

1. Member Approval:

Only MissionView Church members age eighteen (18) and older shall have the right to vote in any members' meeting. Issues will be considered approved upon a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of approval of those voting. In case of a vote on calling a pastor to serve, three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) vote of approval of those voting is required.

2. Meeting Notice:

Notice of the time and purpose of any members' meeting shall be given publicly at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting, unless prevented by emergency. Meetings may be called by a decision of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the elders. The members present constitute a quorum, provided the members present are not less than fifty (50) in number. At least one (1) elder shall be present at all members' meetings.

E. Amendments

Any proposal to alter, amend, or rescind any provision of this constitution shall be submitted in writing by any member of the church to the elders at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the congregation. Such proposal shall be duly considered by the elders prior to the annual

meeting and if such proposal is approved by three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the elders, it shall be submitted to the church membership for their affirmation at the stated annual meeting. Any change would require a majority vote by the congregation.