



## **Statement of Faith**

### **Trinity Church of New Cumberland Pennsylvania**

415 Bridge Street, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania

Trinity Church of New Cumberland is under the lordship of Jesus Christ; therefore, we are committed to living singularly for his pleasure, will and honor.

As embodied in our mission statement, “Trinity is a Christ-centered, Bible-believing, disciple-making, community-focused, caring church. We believe God's Word and love transform people and that the Gospel is the means of salvation from sin. Our mission is to celebrate, connect, and communicate God's love with individuals through an intergenerational and culturally diverse congregation. Relying on the Holy Spirit and prayer, we want to serve as a bridge to connect God's love story with our community locally and online.”

#### **Section 1 – The Bible**

God’s Word has the last word in our church life. While God reveals Himself through His creation, so that no one is without excuse, He most clearly and convincingly reveals Himself through the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word to all mankind. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is complete in its present form, and we should not add to it or subtract from it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. The Bible is inspired by God, it is truth inerrant and infallible – the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith, nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation. Reason, tradition, or experience are not sufficient for Christian doctrine.

Romans 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Kings 17:15; Ephesians 4:17–18; Colossians 2:8

#### **Section 2 – God**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He eternally exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. These three comprise the Trinity, are co-equal and are one God. God the Father is the First Person of the Trinity. The Son and the Holy Spirit are equal with the Father, but voluntarily submit to His will. The Father is an invisible spirit who is all-knowing and present everywhere at all times.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 1:20

### **Section 3 – Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, became fully human, yet lived a sinless life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory where He sits at the right hand of the Father and makes intercession on behalf of those who trust in Him.

Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 4: 1-11; Luke 1:27, 34; Luke 4:1-13; John 1:1-5; John 14:10-31; Hebrews 4:14-15; Hebrews 5:5-10; Hebrews 7:23-28; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; John 17:22

### **Section 4 – The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity with divine personhood, equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world convicting human beings of sin and making us aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with sanctification and power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right to become more like Jesus every day. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-14; John 14:25-26; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9-11, 15-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; Galatians 5:25

### **Section 5 – Human Beings**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Because the first man Adam disobeyed the revealed will of God in the Garden of Eden, he passed down to mankind a sinful nature. All people are sinners by nature and by choice and are therefore spiritually dead, and in need of salvation.

Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-6; Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Isaiah 53:6a; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2

### **Section 6 – Salvation**

Salvation is by God's grace – a free gift to us; but we must accept it in order to obtain eternal life – thus avoiding eternity in hell. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and trusting God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty and be born again. When we repent, turn from our self-ruled, sin-filled life, and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one trusts Jesus Christ as Savior by faith. Our greatest hope and promise is that we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. While heaven is a promise of eternal life with God, hell is a state of eternal separation from God.

Matthew 25:41; John 3:16-17; John 6:39-40; Romans 6:5-8; Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

### **Section 7 – Resurrection and heaven**

Believers in Jesus will live even though they die. Our Lord's promise of a place prepared for us is a guarantee that our salvation in Him will be consummated in the joy and reality of heaven. In bodies that are raised imperishable, we will be free from the presence, power and penalty of sin, restored into the likeness of Christ and will dwell in the presence of our Lord forever. We believe that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ assures the believer of bodily resurrection and eternal life.

Isaiah 65:17-19, Matthew 28:1-7; Romans 6:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18.

### **Section 8 – The second coming of Christ**

We believe the second coming of Christ will be personal, visible, and triumphant. We believe and trust the Lord's promise of a new heaven and a new earth for his people.

Zechariah 14:4; Matthew 24:36-44; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10, 2:8; Titus 2:12-13; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 1:7, Revelation 21:1

### **Section 9 – Eternal Security**

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is justified and secure in his or her salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and power of God that gives this security.

Recognizing our Wesleyan heritage, we espouse the journey towards perfection by the grace of God and consciously resist the temptation of continuing to live in sin, while seeking to become Christlike. Grace cannot be misused as a license to disobedience. While our salvation is secure in God, our spiritual wellbeing is dependent upon our daily obedience to Him. Keeping in mind the Covenant nature of God's love, and the gift of free-will, we recognize that a human heart that outright denies grace or the gift of salvation, is lost. God never fails his part of the covenant; it is for us to keep ours.

John 1:12-13; John 5:24; John 10:29; Romans 8:37-39; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 10:10; 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:12

### **Section 10 – The Believer**

Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading. The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to full-time Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of

service and ministry. The Holy Spirit endows each believer with spiritual gifts, as He determines and reveals to them for the common good of the body of Christ.

1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:18; 1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 4:4; 2 Corinthians 2:15; John 14:15; Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 12:11-13, 12:19, 12:31; Galatians 5:25

### **Section 11 – The Church**

The church is God's redemptive fellowship for His people, in which His word is preached by those divinely called, and the sacraments are faithfully administered, according to Christ's own demonstration. Christ is the recognized head of our Church, not any person, group or religious organization. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, the church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.

Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 1:19b-23, 4:3-10; Ephesians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:14-15.

### **Section 12 – Baptism and Dedication**

Water baptism is a symbol used to describe our salvation experience and to publicly declare our commitment to Christ. We practice baptism by sprinkling or immersion. Baptism is not a means of salvation; it declares the meaning of salvation.

Children are welcomed into the family of God through the Covenant of God with His people, as heirs of the kingdom of God, and are acceptable for Christian baptism. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Parents may baptize their infants and children but may also instead choose to dedicate them to Christ.

All children should be nurtured and lead to personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior. Those dedicated as infants/children should be baptized as believers when they are able to make their own profession of faith.

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 2: 22-40; Luke 3:21-22; Luke 18:15-17; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36-38; Acts 10:44-48, 16:15, 16:30-34, 18:8; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 1:16; Colossians 2:11-12

### **Section 13 – The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's supper is a means of grace, a representation of our redemption, a remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ, and a token of love and union, which Christians have with Christ, and with one another. The Lord's Supper consists of two elements: the bread and the cup. The bread symbolizes the broken body of Jesus, and the cup represents the blood He shed. After a period of self-examination, we as believers are to take the bread and cup in a worthy manner to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:17-20; John 6:53-59; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

## **Section 14 – Marriage**

Marriage is a covenant relationship designed and ordained by God from the very beginning of creation as a union between one man and one woman. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. Regardless of marital status, we are a congregation that reaches out to all.

Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33

## **Section 15 – Divorce and Remarriage**

We believe that God’s word upholds the sanctity of marriage and the commitment to a life-long faithfulness between a husband and wife. We also understand that as the scriptures describe our life in a fallen world, abuse, violence and brokenness can mar marital relationships. In understanding the grace of God and His unconditional forgiveness, we believe there is the fullest possibility of new beginnings for those whose marriages were devastated on account of human brokenness. As faithful Christians, and true believers in the teaching of Jesus Christ, we also believe in redemption and the forgiveness of our sins. Having been restored by the grace of God, an individual will be welcomed into and loved by Trinity Church. We grieve over the devastating emotional, spiritual and economic consequences of divorce for all involved, understanding that men, women and especially children are impacted by such burdens.

Conducting weddings is the prerogative of the Pastor. Weddings can only be conducted by the Pastor as per Sections 14 and 15 of Trinity’s Statement of Faith.

Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Mark 10:11-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2; I Tim. 3:12; I Cor. 7:10-16

## **Section 16 – Human Sexuality**

Human sexuality is part of God’s plan and a gift to be expressed only within the context of marriage (as described in Section 14 above). God has commanded abstinence from any form of sexual activity outside of a marriage between one man and one woman and that any other expression is a perversion of God’s created order. God created human beings, male and female; therefore, we hold the distinction between the two sexes to be sacred and that we are to accept our God-assigned gender, celebrate and protect it.

Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:18–32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

## **Section 17 – Sanctity of Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We hold to the sanctity of all human life. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; Psalm 139:13–16, Genesis 9:6; Matthew 6:26, Psalm 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:4–5; John 5:28–29; 1 Corinthians 15:51–52; 2 Corinthians 5:8–10; Acts 17:25.

### **Section 18 – Social Justice, Unity and Peace**

Trinity is committed to be a scriptural voice amidst our cultural and social challenges to teach and guide individuals to seek justice in society as the Lord would desire for His people. We shall be committed to serving the downtrodden, helping those who are unjustly treated, caring for the poor and needy and seeking to bring beauty out of human brokenness. We shall engage in peaceful means to bring unity in our community, society, and world.

### **Section 19 – Creeds**

We believe and confess the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds as accurate representations of Scripture's teaching.

### **Section 20 – Our Ongoing Purpose**

Our God-given purpose is to love and serve everyone without reservation or discrimination and to share the love of Jesus with them in the spirit of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. We believe that we are ordinary people, sinners saved by grace, in the service of our extraordinary God. We believe that by pursuing to live in the footsteps of Jesus, we can make a life-transforming and eternal difference in the lives of those we serve. Since 1873 this congregation has held steadfastly to God's love, God's Word, and God-ordained ways of doing life, and we are committed to stay true to those truths with our eyes set on eternity. God has been faithful; He has never failed us, and we have no reason to doubt Him ever. It is our prayer that when the story is read backwards from heaven's perspective, it could be said that we as God's people, imperfect, broken and sinful as we are, had by the mystery and marvel of His grace been servants and ambassadors of His Great Gospel and Kingdom and brought Him joy.

Genesis 12:1; Exodus 19:5-6; Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 2:8-9; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 2:6; Revelation 3:16