Statement of Faith

My faith is grounded in the Word of God and centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. I hold to the convictions of the Restoration Movement, with a desire to follow the teachings and practices of the New Testament Church. I believe the Scriptures are the final authority for Christian faith and practice, and that our understanding of God, salvation, the Church, and Christian living must be shaped by His Word.

My aim is not simply to defend a particular religious tradition, but to live faithfully according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the example of the early Church.

- **God -** I believe in one eternal God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, who exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is holy, righteous, loving, merciful, and just. God is the source of all life and the object of our worship, devotion, and obedience.

- **Jesus Christ -** I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life, taught the truth of God's Kingdom, and willingly gave Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity. He was crucified, buried, and raised bodily from the dead on the third day.

- **The Holy Spirit -** I believe the Holy Spirit is God, present and active in the world and in the lives of believers. He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment; dwells within those who belong to Christ; and works to develop spiritual maturity and Christlike character.

- **Humanity and Sin -** I believe humanity was created in the image of God and possesses inherent value and dignity. However, through sin, humanity has become separated from God and is in need of redemption. Every person is accountable to God and in need of His grace. No person can earn salvation through personal goodness, religious activity, or human effort. Our hope is found entirely in the grace and mercy of God through Jesus Christ.

- **Salvation -** I believe salvation is made possible through the grace of God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. We are called to respond to the Gospel through faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, and confession of Him as Lord. I believe baptism by immersion is an essential part of this biblical response to the Gospel. In baptism, a believer is united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Scripture connects baptism with the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is not merely an outward symbol, but a significant part of our response to God's invitation into new life in Christ. Salvation is found in Christ alone. Those who belong to Him are called to live lives marked by faith, obedience, repentance, and continued spiritual growth.

- **The Bible -** I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the authoritative foundation for Christian faith and practice. The Scriptures reveal God's character, His will for humanity, and His plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. I believe they are to be studied, taught, obeyed, and applied faithfully. I believe Scripture should be allowed to speak for itself. Our traditions, opinions, and personal preferences must remain subject to the authority of God's Word.

- **The Church -** I believe the Church is the body of Christ, made up of all who belong to Him through faith. The Church is not limited to a particular denomination or religious organization. Jesus Christ is its head, and all who belong to Him are part of His body. I believe the Church exists to worship God, proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, encourage believers, and serve others. The New Testament provides the foundation for the Church's teaching, leadership, worship, and practice. I hold to the Restoration Movement's conviction that Christian unity should be grounded in Scripture. We should seek to speak where Scripture speaks and allow freedom where Scripture allows freedom, always pursuing truth with humility and love. Our unity is found in Jesus Christ, not in the labels or traditions that may distinguish us.

- **The Lord's Supper -** I believe the Lord's Supper is an important and regular practice of the Church, established by Jesus Christ for His followers. Through the bread and the cup, we remember His body given for us and His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. It is a time of remembrance, reflection, thanksgiving, and fellowship with Christ and one another. Following the example of the early Church, I believe the Lord's Supper should be observed each Lord's Day as the Church

gathers for worship. It reminds us of the sacrifice of Christ, the unity of His body, and the hope we share in His return.

- **Christian Living -** I believe following Jesus involves more than agreement with a set of doctrines. It is a lifelong commitment to becoming more like Him. Christians are called to love God, love their neighbors, pursue holiness, practice forgiveness, serve others, and live with integrity. Our faith should be evident not only in what we profess, but also in how we treat people, conduct ourselves, and fulfill the responsibilities God has placed before us.

- **The Return of Christ -** I believe Jesus Christ will personally return as He promised. I believe in the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, and the fulfillment of God's eternal Kingdom. This hope shapes how we live today, reminding us that our lives belong to God and that our ultimate hope is found in Him.

- **My Commitment -** I desire to remain faithful to the Scriptures, devoted to Jesus Christ, and committed to the work of His Church. I recognize that my understanding is not perfect and that continued study, prayer, and spiritual growth are necessary throughout the Christian life. I believe truth should be pursued with conviction, humility, and love. My desire is to teach the Word faithfully, serve people sincerely, and live in a manner that brings honor to Jesus Christ.