

## Brandywine Valley Church Statements of Faith

### **God**

*God our Creator, Judge and Redeemer is Lord and He is Love. Because He is Lord, He tolerates no rivals. Because He is Love, He seeks not to coerce but to win our worship. In the unity of God are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are equal in every Divine perfection, but they execute distinct yet harmonious offices in the work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2-3; 1 John 4:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11)*

### **Jesus Christ**

*Jesus Christ is the Virgin-born God-Man. He is undiminished Deity and perfect Humanity. He bore the sins of mankind in the shedding of His blood. He rose from death. He ascended bodily into Heaven. He will return bodily to earth. (Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Peter 2:24; Mark 16:6; Acts 1:9-11)*

### **The Holy Spirit**

*The Holy Spirit is God. He glorifies Christ. He indwells each Christian and so gives unity to the Church. He gives to the justified those graces and gifts necessary for their sanctification. And He carries out God's purposes for both Church and world. (Acts 5:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4,7,12-13; John 16:7-15; Galatians 5:22-23; Isaiah 45:1)*

### **The Church**

*The Church is the one Body of Christ which consists of all whom God has justified. The Church on Earth gathers in local congregations for purposes of worship, teaching, and fellowship; it disperses into the world to evangelize and to do good to all. The Church practices the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper according to the Lord's commands. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42; Matthew 28:20; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

### **Man [Humanity]**

*God created Man as male and female. He created both in His image. Adam sinned and brought upon himself and his posterity guilt, death, and condemnation. (Genesis 1:26-28; Romans 5:12,16)*

### **The Bible**

*God moved the writers of the Old and New Testaments in such a way that all they wrote expresses without error God's thought. The Bible is the final authority for faith and living. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

### **Justification**

*Justification is an act of God. In this act He pardons eternally the guilt of all who have faith in Christ as Savior. Faith in Christ as Savior means to believe that Christ bore my sins and rose from the dead. (Romans 3:22-26; Ephesians 2:8-9)*

### **Sanctification**

*Sanctification is a process by which God restores His image in those whom He has justified. In this process God is at work in us both to will and to work His good pleasure, and at the same time we Christians are working out our own salvation. This process will continue until God restores His image in us. (Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:10)*

### **The World to Come**

*Jesus Christ will return to earth. There will be a resurrection to life for those whom God has justified, and there will be a resurrection to judgment for those whom God has not justified. Those who rise to judgment will be sentenced to eternal hell. Those who rise to life will enter the eternal presence of God as the perfected sons of God. (Acts 1:9-11; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 3:2)*

## **Policy Statement on Gender, Marriage, & Sexuality**

### **Context**

There are strong forces in our culture that are actively undermining the biblical framework for marriage and family, as well as the purpose of gender and sexuality. While we do not have a statement on all theological and moral issues, we believe these issues have risen to such a level of relevance and practical application within our congregation that creating a policy statement was the best course of action. Therefore, the purpose of this statement is:

1. To give our congregation clarity on where we stand.
2. As a legal safeguard.
3. To maintain unity among our members and leaders.

### **Policy Statement**

*We believe that God wonderfully and intentionally creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the plan of God for that person.*

*We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.*

*We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).*

*We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).*

*We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). 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 Brandywine Valley Church.*