



APPENDIX I - Membership Statement of Belief and Practice

Statement of Belief

The following Statement of Belief represents the core orthodox beliefs of the historic Church as presented by Scripture. Members of Portico Church Arlington must embrace this Statement of Belief in its entirety.

I believe...

- a. The Scriptures are true, authoritative, and sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
- b. There is only one true God, Creator of heaven and earth, who eternally exists in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6, John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:13-17, 28:17-20).
- c. All things exist for the glory of God (Proverbs 16:4; Isaiah 61:3; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Ephesians 1:3-14).
- d. After the fall of Adam, all humanity—Christ excluded—is sinful both in birth and by choice (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 5:12-21, 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3).
- e. The just penalty for sin is physical and spiritual death (Genesis 2:15-17, 3:19; Romans 5:12, 6:23; James 1:14-15).
- f. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin, and is both fully God and fully human (Matthew 1:20; John 1:1-4, John 1:14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3).
- g. Jesus Christ died as the sacrificial substitute to pay the penalty for sin (John 1:29; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18).
- h. Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will one day physically return to remove all trace of evil and fully re-create the world (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7).
- i. There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Only those who turn from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal reward. Those who do not turn from sin and to Jesus will be raised to eternal punishment (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).
- j. Only through faith in the Person and work of Jesus Christ, with repentance from sin can one be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy (John 3:18; Acts 4:12;) Romans 3:21-26; 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

Believing this, I affirm...

- a. I have renounced my old way of life, repented of my sins, asked God to forgive me and to cleanse me and make me a new creation. (1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

- b. I am a Christian who has been saved from my sins by the grace of Jesus Christ. I have accepted His gift of salvation bought by His death on the cross and His resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life. (John 3:16-18; Romans 3:23-26)
- c. Jesus Christ is the Lord, King, and Ruler of my life. (Romans 10:9)

Statement of Practice for Elders

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, elders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the corporate church body and its individual members. The following is an overview of the requirements for elders as spelled out within the Scriptures.

The Elders agree...

- a. To appoint for the church elders and deacons (including staff members and leaders who serve the church) according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- b. To prayerfully seek God's will for our church and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- c. To lovingly care for you, seeking your growth as a disciple of Christ. (Hebrews 13:17; I Thessalonians 5:12)
- d. To help equip you to serve Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- e. To provide teaching and counsel from the entire counsel of Scripture. (Galatians 6:6; I Timothy 5:17-18)
- f. To help you in times of need. (Acts 2:42-47; James 2:14-17)
- g. To pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick. (James 5:14)
- h. To be on guard against false teachers and false teachings. (Acts 20:28-31)
- i. To lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole. (Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1)
- j. To set an example and join the members in fulfilling the duties of church membership. (I Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; I Timothy 4:12)

Statement of Practice for Members

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the call to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. Scripture refers to this as "living by the Spirit" (Romans 8). The requirements of this *Member Statement of Belief and Practice* are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible yet non-exhaustive explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces.

As a Member, I agree...

- a. To submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- b. That I have read, understood and agree with the Statement of Belief contained in this document.

- c. To maintain unity and peace in regard to theological beliefs. In the event of a theological disagreement, I commit not to teach contrary to the core doctrines of the church. (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:7, 17)
- d. To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22).
- e. To follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the sacraments prescribed to His Church:
 - i. Baptism.
 - ii. Regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.
- f. To regularly participate in the life of Portico Church Arlington by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-community, attending member gatherings and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).
- g. To steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, spiritual gifts, finances, and possessions. (Proverbs 3:9-10; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-16, 5:15-18; Gal 5:22-26) This includes regular giving, service, and participation at Portico Church Arlington that is sacrificial, cheerful, active, and voluntary. (Romans 12:1-8; II Corinthians 8 & 9, 12:7-31; I Peter 4:10-11)
- h. By God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13-16. 1 Peter 4:1-3). Believers should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit.
- i. To refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23).
- j. To take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, and to consider actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 8:1-13).
- k. To submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).
- l. To submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:
 - i. Following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another – the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
 - ii. Receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- m. To do the following when I sin:
 - i. Confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - ii. Repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10).
- n. To do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons
 - i. Notify the elders as well as the appropriate church leaders.
 - ii. Seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

Signature of Member Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Elder Conducting Interview: _____ Date: _____