WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible

We believe the Bible—both the Old and New Testaments—is the inspired Word of God, written by human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is completely trustworthy and without error in its original writings. The Bible is God's authoritative revelation of who He is, what He has done, and how we are to live. It is our final authority for faith, salvation, worship, and Christian living, standing above human opinions, experiences, and traditions. The whole story of Scripture ultimately points to Jesus Christ and God's work of redemption through Him.

(Luke 24:27; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21)

God

We believe there is one true and living God, eternally existing as three distinct persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, sharing the same divine nature, attributes, and glory, yet there is only one God. God is eternal and self-existent, the great "I AM," who created and sustains all things and who redeems humanity. Although the mystery of the Trinity is beyond our complete understanding, God has truly revealed Himself to us through Scripture and most fully through Jesus Christ. God alone is worthy of our worship, love, trust, and obedience.

(Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10–11; Matthew 28:19; John 1:14; Acts 5:3–4; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who became fully human without ceasing to be fully God. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, Jesus lived a completely sinless life and revealed God to us through His words, works, and character. He proclaimed God's kingdom, demonstrated God's love, and willingly died on the cross for our sins, reconciling us to God. Forgiveness and new life are offered to everyone and are received through faith in Him.

Jesus bodily rose from the dead, demonstrating His victory over sin, death, and the powers of evil. He ascended into heaven and is exalted at the right hand of the Father, where He reigns as Lord and intercedes for His people. Jesus alone is Savior and Lord, and every part of creation will ultimately acknowledge His authority.

(Matthew 1:18–23; John 1:1–14; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:6–11; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5–11; Hebrews 7:25–26)

The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is fully God and eternally one with the Father and the Son. He is not merely an influence or power but a divine person who is present and active in the world. He reveals the truth about Jesus, convicts people of sin, and draws them toward repentance and faith.

The Holy Spirit lives within every believer from the moment of salvation, assuring us that we belong to God and forming the character of Christ within us. He helps us understand and apply Scripture, guides us in truth, produces spiritual fruit in our lives, and empowers us to follow Jesus and participate in His mission. He gives spiritual gifts to every believer for serving others and building up the Church according to His will. As followers of Jesus, we seek to be continually filled with, led by, and responsive to the Holy Spirit.

(John 14:16–17, 26; 16:7–14; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 12:4–11; Galatians 5:22–25; Ephesians 1:13–14; 5:18)

Humanity

We believe every person is created in the image of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity, value, and worth. God created humanity to know Him, enjoy a relationship with Him, reflect His character, and care for His creation. Yet humanity rebelled against God and became separated from Him by sin. As a result, we are all sinful by nature and by choice, and sin has brought guilt, brokenness, and death into our lives and our world. We cannot restore our relationship with God through our own goodness or efforts; we need His grace and redemption.

(Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 8:3–6; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:1–2; Romans 3:23; Colossians 1:21)

Salvation

We believe salvation is God's gracious work of rescuing and restoring us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because of sin, we cannot save ourselves or earn a right relationship with God. Salvation is God's gift, offered to everyone and received through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ—not through our goodness, religious activity, or human effort.

Salvation encompasses the whole of God's work in us. We have been saved—being forgiven, made right with God, and adopted into His family. We are being saved as the Holy Spirit transforms us into the likeness of Christ. We will be saved when Christ raises us, completely delivers us from sin and death, and brings us into the fullness of His renewed creation.

Good works do not earn our salvation; they are the fruit of God's saving grace. From beginning to end, salvation is by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ alone. Because salvation begins with God's grace and rests on the finished work of Christ, believers can live with confidence in God's faithfulness while continuing to trust Jesus and persevere in faith.

(Luke 24:46–47; John 3:3–17; Romans 3:21–28; 8:15–17; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:4–7; 1 Peter 1:3–5)

Sanctification

We believe sanctification is the lifelong work of God through which the Holy Spirit makes followers of Jesus increasingly holy and transforms us into the likeness of Christ. This work begins when we receive new life through faith in Jesus and continues throughout our lives. Sanctification does not earn our salvation or make God love us more; it is the result of God's grace working within us.

As we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit, He enables us to turn away from sin, renews our minds, forms the character of Jesus within us, and empowers us to live in loving obedience to God. We participate in this work through Scripture, prayer, worship, self-examination, Christian community, and acts of obedience. Although spiritual growth is gradual and we will not reach complete perfection in this life, God faithfully continues His transforming work in everyone who belongs to Christ.

(Romans 6:1–14; 8:1–14; 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6; 2:12–13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23–24; 1 Peter 1:15–16)

The Church

We believe the Church is the worldwide community of everyone who has been reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ. The Church is the body of Christ, the family of God, and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Although believers come from different cultures, traditions, and backgrounds, we are united by one Lord, one faith, and one Spirit.

We believe every follower of Jesus should actively participate in a local church. The local church is a community in which believers worship God, learn and live out Scripture, pray together, practice baptism and Communion, care for one another, develop their spiritual gifts, and grow toward maturity in Christ.

Jesus has entrusted His Church with continuing His mission in the world. We proclaim the gospel, make disciples, demonstrate God's love through compassion and service, and work with other followers of Jesus to advance His kingdom. God provides spiritual leaders to shepherd the Church and equip every believer to participate in its ministry and mission.

(Matthew 16:18; 28:18–20; John 17:20–23; Acts 2:42–47; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 2:19–22; 4:1–16)

Baptism and Communion

We believe Jesus commands everyone who places their faith in Him to be baptized in water. Baptism does not save us or earn God's grace; salvation is received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Rather, baptism is a public declaration of faith and an act of obedience through which believers identify with Jesus and His Church. It portrays our participation in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and celebrates the new life we have received in Him. Following

the pattern of the New Testament, Movement Church practices baptism by immersion for those who have personally trusted in Jesus Christ.

We believe Jesus gave Communion to the Church as a sacred practice of remembrance, thanksgiving, proclamation, and fellowship. Through the bread and cup, believers remember Christ's sacrificial death, celebrate the new covenant established through Him, proclaim the gospel, and anticipate His return. Communion does not earn salvation but helps form and unite God's people around Jesus and His saving work.

(Matthew 26:26–29; 28:19–20; Acts 2:38–42; Romans 6:3–4; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Colossians 2:12)

The Sanctity of Human Life

Because every human being bears the image of God, we believe every human life possesses inherent dignity, value, and worth from conception until natural death. Human worth does not depend upon age, stage of development, physical or intellectual ability, health, independence, productivity, ethnicity, or social and economic status.

God calls us to value, protect, and care for people at every stage of life—especially those who are vulnerable, including the unborn, women facing unexpected pregnancies, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, the poor, the oppressed, and those who cannot advocate for themselves. We believe the intentional taking of innocent human life, including through abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide, is contrary to God's design. We seek to uphold these convictions with truth, compassion, practical care, and the grace of Jesus, through whom forgiveness, healing, and restoration are available.

(Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 139:13–16; Proverbs 24:11–12; 31:8–9; Luke 1:39–45; James 3:9–10)

Marriage and Sexuality

We believe marriage is a holy covenant established by God and designed to be an exclusive, lifelong union between one man and one woman. Within this covenant, husband and wife become one and are called to a relationship marked by faithfulness, sacrificial love, mutual service, and sexual fidelity. Christian marriage should honor God and reflect the faithful, covenant love of Christ for His Church. Because shared faith is foundational to Christian marriage, followers of Jesus should marry someone who also belongs to Christ.

We believe human sexuality is a good gift from God and that sexual intimacy is intended to be expressed only within the covenant of marriage. Sexual practices that violate God's design—including adultery, premarital or extramarital sexual activity, same-sex sexual activity, pornography, exploitation, and abuse—do not honor Him. Marriage never provides permission for coercion, exploitation, or abuse. God calls both married and unmarried people to honor Him with their bodies and practice sexual faithfulness. These standards apply to all of us, and when we fall short, God offers forgiveness, grace, and transforming power through Jesus Christ.

(Genesis 2:18–24; Matthew 5:27–30; 19:4–6; Romans 1:24–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–20; 7:39; Ephesians 5:21–33; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8; Hebrews 13:4)

Gender and Identity

We believe God created humanity in His image as male and female, equal in dignity and value and intentionally embodied as sexual beings. Biological sex is a meaningful part of God's good creation and is not merely assigned by society or independently determined by personal feelings. Therefore, we believe God's intention is for people to receive and live in accordance with their biological sex rather than attempt to redefine themselves as the opposite sex or as having no sex.

We recognize that some people experience a deep and painful conflict between their biological sex and their internal sense of gender. Such experiences do not diminish a person's dignity or place them beyond the love of God. However, we do not believe that rejecting one's biological sex or pursuing social, hormonal, or surgical transition represents God's intended path toward wholeness. Our deepest identity is not something we create for ourselves; it is received from God and ultimately found in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Believing that God created humanity as male and female does not require men and women to conform to narrow cultural stereotypes. Personality, interests, appearance, abilities, and occupation do not determine whether someone is male or female. We also recognize that a small number of people are born with biological conditions that can make their sex difficult to determine. These complex situations should be approached individually with careful medical understanding, compassion, and pastoral wisdom.

(Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18–25; Psalm 139:13–16; Matthew 19:4–6; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:1–4)

The Return of Jesus Christ and Eternity

We believe Jesus Christ will personally and gloriously return to complete God's work of redemption. He will raise the dead, judge the living and the dead, fully defeat sin and evil, renew creation, and establish His kingdom in all its fullness. Those who receive God's forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ will enjoy eternal life in His presence. Those who reject God's grace will face His just judgment and the consequences Scripture describes as hell.

The Bible uses vivid images—including fire, darkness, exclusion, destruction, and the second death—to communicate the seriousness of judgment. Faithful Christians have understood some of these descriptions differently, and we do not insist that every image must be interpreted literally. We affirm that God's judgment is real, final, and perfectly just.

Christians may also disagree about the timing and sequence of events surrounding Christ's return, but our hope rests not in a particular timeline or interpretive system—it rests in Jesus Himself. Therefore, we seek to live with faithfulness, readiness, and hope: loving God, loving

our neighbors, growing in holiness, making disciples, and participating in His mission until He comes. His kingdom will have no end.

(Matthew 24:36–44; 25:31–46; John 5:28–29; Acts 1:9–11; 1 Corinthians 15:20–28, 51–58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 20:11–15; 21:1–5; 22:12, 20)