

# MY MESSIAH CHURCH OF YORK

## Statement of Beliefs

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### God

We believe in the one true, holy and living God, who is Creator, Sovereign and Preserver of all things visible and invisible. He is infinite in power, wisdom, justice, goodness and love, and rules with gracious regard for the well-being and salvation of men and women, to the glory of His name. We believe in the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, distinct but inseparable, eternally one in essence and power.

*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16; Psalm 115:3; Psalm 147:5; Romans 11:33; Psalm 89:14; 1 John 4:3; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; John 3:16; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1*

### Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As ministering Servant, He lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence He shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by Him all humankind will be judged.

*John 1:1,14; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Philippians 2:6-7; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9, 11; Hebrews 7:25; 2 Timothy 4:1*

### The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from and is one in being with the Father and the Son. We believe that those who receive Jesus Christ also receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit fills and empowers the believer to exercise their

spiritual gifts and do the work of God in proportion to the believer's personal surrender to Jesus Christ, enabling the Christian to live a holy, victorious and fruitful life that greatly glorifies God. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He leads men and women through faithful response to the gospel into the fellowship of the Church. He comforts, sustains and empowers the faithful and guides them into all truth.

*John 15:26; John 16:7; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 4:10; John 16:8; Acts 2:38; John 14:16; Romans 8:26; Acts 1:8; John 16:13; John 14:26*

## *The Holy Bible*

We believe that the Bible (consisting solely of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is the only book given by God, divinely inspired, inerrant, infallible, and that it is entirely trustworthy. We believe that the writers of the Bible were inspired by God and led by God's Spirit. We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveals the Word of God so far as it is necessary for our salvation. It is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice. 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.

*2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Samuel 23:2; John 14:26; John 5:39; Romans 15:4; James 1:22; Galatians 1:8; Revelation 22:18-19*

## *The Church*

We believe the Christian Church is the community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. We believe it is one, holy, apostolic and catholic (defined as in continuity with the original universal church founded by the apostles). It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by those divinely called, and the Sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. 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.

*Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27; Ephesians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:19-20; Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 4:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

# The Sacraments

We believe the Sacraments, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper, ordained by Christ, are symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession and of God's love toward us. We believe Baptism signifies entrance into the household of faith, and is a symbol of repentance and inner cleansing from sin, a representation of the new birth in Christ Jesus and a mark of Christian discipleship. We do not believe that Baptism is a requirement for salvation. We encourage anyone interested in Baptism to see the church pastor. We believe the Lord's Supper is a representation of our redemption which Christians have with Christ. We believe that communion was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ for all believers to remember His sacrificial death, burial, resurrection, and coming return. We believe that all believers, regardless of membership, are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper.

*Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

# Sin and Salvation

We believe that life begins at conception, and that all people are created in the image of God. As a result of the Fall of humanity, all people are individually sinners needing forgiveness, salvation from sin and restoration to God through personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. We believe salvation is the gift of God brought to individuals by the grace of God and is received only upon personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness and cleansing of sin.

*Psalm 139:11-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 9:6; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:22; 1 John 1:7*

# Good Works

We believe good works are the necessary fruits of faith but they do not have the virtue to remove our sins. We believe good works, pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, spring from a true and living faith and by them faith is made evident.

*James 2:17, 26; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; James 2:18; Galatians 5:6; Matthew 5:16; 1 John 3:18*

# Public Worship

We believe the assembling of the people of God for worship is necessary to Christian fellowship and spiritual growth. It should be in a language and form understood by the people, consistent with the Holy Scriptures to the edification of all, and in accordance with the order and discipline of the church.

*Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 14:19,26,40; Ephesians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Titus 1:5*

# Gender Equality

Scripture teaches that men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. Accordingly, the church should treat women and men equally. We believe that both women and men are called to and gifted for ordained and licensed ministry, and both genders are able to hold any role of leadership within the church.

*Genesis 1:27, 3:28; James 2:1; Romans 2:11, 16:1,7; Acts 2:17-18; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Philippians 4:2-3*

# Marriage and Sexuality

We believe marriage and sexual intimacy are good gifts from God. In keeping with Christian teaching through the ages and throughout the Church universal, we believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe that God intends faithfulness in marriage and celibacy in singleness.

*Genesis 2:24; Proverbs 18:22; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Malachi 14-15; Ephesians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 32-24*

# Human Dignity

We believe that human beings are created male and female and must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of immeasurable worth from conception through natural death. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual or group are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

*Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5:44, 7:12, 18:10; Mark 10:14, 12:31; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 2:17, 3:9; Romans 12:17-18; Proverbs 10:12; James 2:1; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5*