| Statement of Faith for Non-Voting Membership for | the |
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## **Reason for Man's Existence**

I. We believe that man\* exists to glorify God (*I Cor. 10:31*).

## Chapter 2

## **Holy Scriptures**

I. We believe in the inspiration of the Bible (*Matt.* 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16).

## Chapter 3

## **Holy Trinity**

I. We believe God is Spirit in nature; God is infinite in all His attributes; He is One God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (*John* 14:26; 15:26; Judges 6:11-22; Gen.19:24; Isa.6:8; Exodus 23:20-21).

## Chapter 4

#### Creation

I. We believe God created the heavens and the earth and sustains all things according to His divine will. (*Gen. 1: 1-31*).

# Chapter 5

## Man's Image and Death

- I. We believe God created man in His own image, which gives man of every race intrinsic worth and dignity; we are not an animal produced by a chance driven evolutionary process (*Gen. 1:26*).
- II. We believe man has an immortal soul, which will depart at death and either go to heaven or hell--eternal conscious torment forever, not annihilation (*Matt.* 8:12; Rev. 14:10-11).

## **Original Sin**

- I. We believe in original sin—that is, man is born into sin as a result of Adam and Eve's fall (disobedience and sin) in the Garden of Eden (*Rom. 5:12; Gen. 5:3; 6:5*).
- II. We believe that man cannot merit grace from God for our inherited sin from Adam; we are dependent on Christ for our salvation (Rom. 4:5).

## Chapter 7

## **Pre-existence of Christ**

- I. We believe Christ actually existed in history and that the Father sent His Son to a lost mankind.
- II. We believe Christ is the eternal pre-existent Word of God; He is the long-awaited Messiah (*John 1:1-2*).
- III. We believe Christ had two natures, but one person; He is God of very God man of very man (*John 1:1, 18; 20-28*).

# **Chapter 8**

## Crucifixion

I. We believe Christ was crucified for our sins, rose bodily on the third day for our justification, seen by over 500 people and ascended into heaven (*I Cor.15:6; Acts 1:3; Mark 16:9-14*).

# Chapter 9

## Virgin Birth

I. We believe in the incarnation of Christ—He was born of a virgin and is the pre-existent Word of God (*I John 4:2*).

## **Justification and Repentance**

- I. We believe that man is saved by grace alone, through faith alone and Christ alone; it is the imputed righteousness, which is credited to man (*Rom. 4:5*).
- II. We believe repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ are essential to salvation (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 8:22; Mark 1:4).

## Chapter 11

#### Church

I. We believe that the Christian church consists of all who place their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation; we consider them brothers and sisters irrespective of the denominational distinctions (*Col. 1:24*).

#### Chapter 12

#### **Resurrection and the New Heavens and New Earth**

I. We believe Christ will return to judge the living and the dead; God will resurrect the dead, both saved and unsaved; He will establish a New Heaven and a New Earth (*I Thess. 4:14; Rev. 21:1-2*).

## Chapter 13

#### Marriage

- I. We believe that marriage is between a man and a woman; we believe this a *creation ordinance* and is not a social contract (*Matt. 9 & Gen. 1 and 2*).
- II. We believe that God condemns sex outside of marriage as sin and will judge fornicators and adulterers (*Heb. 13:4*).
- III. We believe that Homosexuality and Lesbianism is condemned in the Scriptures as sin and unnatural deviation (*Rom. 1:24, 26,27 & Lev. 18:22*).

#### Creationism

I. We believe God created the heavens and the earth "ex-nihilo"—that is, out nothing (*Genesis 1: 1-31*).

# Chapter 15

## **Political Correctness and Judging**

- I. We believe "political correctness" is a heresy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church—*Matt. 7:1* was in reference to the hypocrites who would condemn someone for doing something they themselves were doing (*v.5*); We believe that Christ commanded us to "judge a righteous judgment" (*John 7:24; Matt. 7:6-20; I John 2:4; I Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:1—21*).
- II. We believe that the "cult of popularity" is detrimental to obeying Christ (*Luke 6:26*). Christ warned us that if everyone likes us, this not a blessing, but a curse!

## Chapter 16

#### **Christian Worldview**

- I. We believe Christ has the preeminence in all things (*Colossians 1:18*).
- II. We believe every believer in Christ should be "competent to defend the Faith" (Jude 3; I Peter 3:15).

#### **Notes:**

\* The term "man" used in this statement of faith means both "male and female." (The above is read as Chapters and Articles for reference purposes.)

The <u>Non-voting Membership Statement of Faith</u> prepared by the **New Jersey Institute for the Advancement of Truth (NJIAT)**. Any high school Bible Club or college Bible Club can use this Statement of Faith for their Bible Club. **Website:** <u>www.njiat.com</u>