

# Statement of Faith for Voting Membership for the

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

## Chapter 1

### Holy Scriptures

- I. We confess the absolute inspiration of the Scriptures. We believe the Orthodox position for the inspiration of the Word of God, which consists of the following seven (7) definitions:
  1. **Verbal:** Every single letter and word of Scripture as put down in the original autographs were inspired of God (*Matt. 5:18; 22:32*).
  2. **Plenary:** All of the Bible, in all of its parts, is equally inspired. No part is more inspired than the other parts. The 66 books comprising the Old and New Testaments are all equally inspired (*Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16*).
  3. **Inspiration:** God sovereignly prepared the authors of Scriptures from birth in all things. He stirred them to write. He guided them so they wrote down everything He wanted them to write. They wrote down the very words of God. God’s sovereign control of the authors did not remove the characteristics and personalities of the authors, but such things were ordered by God to be a better vehicle of expression.
  4. **Infallibility:** In principle, the Bible is infallible, i.e., incapable of error or mistake. Why? God cannot lie (*Titus 1:2*), and the Bible is His Word; therefore, the Bible cannot be a lie (*John 17:17*).
  5. **Inerrant:** This is biblical infallibility stressed in the area where it touches on matters of science and on any observations and explanations of the natural world. Example: Creation, the Flood, miracles, history, etc. The bible is scientifically correct wherever it speaks in those areas.
  6. **Bible:** The books in the Protestant Bible. There are no “lost” books. The Apocrypha is not inspired.
  7. **Word of God:** The Word of God expressed in human words. It is human and Divine, with the Divine so controlling the human element, that nothing is expressed but the thoughts and Will of God.<sup>1</sup>
- II. We believe the Bible was written by more than 40 different authors over a Period of 2000 years—it is one harmonious unit (with no collaboration between authors) and contains no contradictions.
- III. We believe that there is no contradiction between the Old Testament and New Testament. We believe that the Old Covenant was defective, not the Old Testament.

## Chapter 2

### Interpretation of Scriptures

- I. We believe that the Scriptures should be interpreted using the same Hermeneutical Principles (linguistic and literary rules used to interpret any piece of literature) that would be applied to any historic or contemporary literature—the historical, grammatical method is used in the exegesis of Scripture. The Bible comes to us as different types of literature. The Bible has prose, poetry, historical narrative, apocalyptic literature, letters, dialogue, theological treatise, biography, etc.

## Chapter 3

### God/Christ, and the Holy Trinity

- I. We believe that God is Spirit in nature, infinite in all His attributes. He is one God in Three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ is ontologically God in His being—not functionally as God. (*1 John 5:7; Judges 6:11-22; Isa. 6:8; Exodus 23:20-21*).
- II. We believe God is Eternal (self-existent), Omnipresent (He is present everywhere at the same time), Omniscient (He knows everything about everything), Omnipotent (all-powerful, but does mean He can go against His own Divine nature—for example, God cannot sin and cannot lie—*2 Tim. 2:13; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6-18.*), Sovereign (infinite actual control), and Holy (goodness).
- III. We believe that Christ pre-existed (*John 1:1,2; 1 John 4:1-2*), the deity of Christ—He is God of very God as well as man of very man, two natures, but one person and not created (*John 1:1, 18; 20-28*).
- IV. We believe in the incarnation of Christ—He was born of a virgin and is the pre-existent Word of God (*1 John 4:2*). The humanity of Christ (*Acts 2:22*), the vicarious atonement of Christ (*1 Cor. 15:3-4*), the bodily resurrection of Christ (*Rom. 10-9*), the Lordship of Christ (*1 Cor. 12:3*) and Jesus is Christ (*1 John 2:22*).

## Chapter 4

### Justification

- I. We believe that justification is a judicial, legal and forensic declaration or

Verdict of God. Christ's obedience, death and resurrection paid the full penalty for breaking the Law of God. God effectually calls and freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into a person, but by pardoning their sins--it is *imputed* righteousness (*Rom. 4:5*). The Greek word justification--as used in Scriptures--was used in Roman law as the judicial term to declare someone "not guilty." i.e., righteous.

- II. We believe that the men and women saints in the Old Testament were justified solely through faith--not by works (*Genesis 15:6*)--in Christ's life, death and resurrection--that is, the Christ who was to come just as the New Testament men and women were saved by the Christ who came (*I Corinthians 10:4; Gal. 3:8*).

## Chapter 5

### Atonement

- I. We believe that the Father sent His Son to redeem a lost mankind. Christ was the long-awaited Jewish Messiah who is the only way one can be saved--Christ is the only way to the Father; His name is the only name under heaven whereby we might be saved. Christ's death paid the full penalty for our sins on the cross--it is the substitutionary and vicarious atonement of Christ (*I Cor. 15:3-4*). He is the *only mediator*, advocate and high priest (*I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17*) between man and God.
- II. We reject the Popish claims that Mary is an Advocate and mediatrix (969), the religious system of sacraments, indulgences, purgatory, and prayers for the dead (1032; 1471-79, 1498). We also reject the Mass that teaches Christ is offered in an unbloody manner (1367). We believe Christ died once and for all--not a continuous sacrifice (*Hebrews 10:11-14*).<sup>2</sup>
- III. We reject the ecumenical idea that all ways lead to God and universalism. We believe that all other gods of the heathen such as Allah, Siva, Buddha, New Age Jesus, etc. are false gods that will condemn one to hell. We believe the heathen religionists are worshiping demons (*I Cor. 10:20*) and cannot be saved unless they turn from idols and serve the true God (*I Thess. 1:9-10*).

## Chapter 6

### Original Sin

- I. We believe Adam is the "Father" genetically of the human race and all other human beings originated (*I Cor. 15:45*).

- II. We believe that Adam’s fall into sin was substitutionary and vicarious in nature (*Rom. 5:12*). The human race is guilty—that is, born into sin from birth--as a result of the imputation of Adam’s disobedience (*Gen. 5:3*). We believe Adam’s depravity was passed on to his children that reveals itself “from the womb” and even “in the womb” (*Gen. 6:5; 8:21; 25:22-26; Psa.14:1-6; 51:5; 58:3; Rom.3:23; Eph. 2:1-3*).
- III. We believe that Adam and Eve were created perfect with no sin and placed in the Garden of Eden where there was no death or sickness.
- IV. We believe that man was created in God’s image. We believe this gives us dignity and worth. Thus man is not an animal or machine and, although man was corrupted by Adam’s fall into sin, it did not eradicate man still being God’s image-bearer.

## Chapter 7

### The Doctrine of Eternal Torment/Hell

- I. We believe that the unsaved/heathen will suffer “eternal torment” forever—not annihilation. It is a place of grief, torment and eternal shame (*Dan. 12:1-2; Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 24:51; 25:41, 46; Mk. 9:48; Rev.14:10-11; 19:20; 20:10, 15*).

## Chapter 8

### Resurrection and the New Heaven and New Earth

- I. We believe that when Christ returns to earth from heaven, God will resurrect the “true saints” and we will receive a glorified body (*1 Thess. 4:14*).
- II. We believe Christ arose bodily from the grave (*Rom. 14:9; 1 Cor.15:4*).
- III. We believe that God will purge the earth with fire and a “new earth” will be established with no evil (*2 Pet. 3:3-13*) and “Heaven” will come down to the “new earth”. The true saints will inherit it and fulfill its mandate originally given to Adam (*Rev. 21:1-2; Matt. 5:5; Gen. 1:28*).

## Chapter 9

### Marriage

- I. We believe that marriage is between a man and a woman—we believe this is a *creation ordinance* and is not a social contract that developed in some evolutionary process or in human culture (*Matt .9 & Gen.1 and 2*). Therefore marriage is a creation of God.

- 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*).
- IV. We believe the male and female are equal in terms of their being or nature because they are both created in the image of God—however, they are not equal in terms of function or office. Man’s headship of the woman in the context of marriage and the Church was instituted at creation by God Himself (*I Cor. 11:3, 7-9; I Tim. 2:12, 13*). Yes, women can be leaders/officers in a Bible Club—the Bible Club is not a church.

## **Chapter 10**

### **Abortion**

- I. We believe that abortion is murder except in cases where the mother’s life is in danger.
- II. We believe that life begins at the moment of conception in the womb (*Psalms 139:13, 16, Jeremiah 1:5, Genesis 9:6, Isaiah 49-1 & Luke 1:15*).
- III. We believe that infanticide, mercy killing and euthanasia is wrong and another form of murder.

## **Chapter 11**

### **Creationism**

- I. We believe God created the heavens and the earth “ex-nihilo”—that is, out of nothing (*Genesis 1:1-31*).
- II. We reject that evolution—in the sense of time, chance, and struggle for survival—rather than God of the Bible is responsible for life. Evolution involves making certain *a priori* or *metaphysical assumptions*, which excludes the God of the Bible as creator. We believe in variation, mutation and natural selection in living things such as speciation—however, this is “adaptation”. It is variation within a kind— dogs remain dogs, horses remain horses, etc. What creationists call “evolution” is a hypothetical philosophy that single-celled animals changed by mutation and natural selection into reptiles, birds, mammals and people (the molecules-to-man concept).
- III. We believe that evolution is a “secular humanist” belief system—that is, a religion or world and life view; it is not science. In other words, evolution is

based upon a dogmatic exclusion of a miraculous creation/creator—in effect, a faith commitment to naturalism. It is a religious belief that no supernatural element exists. [“Theistic science” is man’s infallible attempt to understand the purpose and meaning of things and to use this for the glory of God—“humanistic science” cannot distinguish between evil and good; without God science has no foundation.]

- IV. We believe God created Adam out of the dust of the ground (*Genesis 2:7*) and that God took one of Adam’s ribs and made into a women (*Genesis 2:21-22*). We believe Adam and Eve did not evolve from an ape or any other animal.

## Chapter 12

### Christian Worldview

- I. We believe the Scriptures (*sola scriptura*) should be the final authority to determine a Christian worldview, morals and doctrine--not Darwin, Freud, science, psychology, human reason (rationalism), human experience (empiricism), human feelings (mysticism), human faith (fideism), etc. [We reject “Natural Theology,” i.e., man, apart from and independent of the Bible, can discover the truth about all things human and divine starting from himself/herself as incompatible with the Bible and a heresy (*Psa. 14:3; Pro. 3:5-6; Pro. 28:26; Rom. 3:11; I Cor. 1:21*)].
- II. We believe that the Creation, Fall and Redemption form the basis of the biblical world and life view.
- III. We believe that mankind cannot know the true “God” without special revelation. (*Gal. 1:12; I Cor. 2:10; Pro. 29:18*).
- IV. We believe the fear of God/Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom (*Proverbs 1:7*)
- V. We believe God is sovereign and the measure of all things--man is not autonomous, i.e., independent from God (*Pro.21:1; Acts 4:27-28*).
- VI. We believe Christ has the preeminence in all things (*Colossians 1:18*). We believe the world and all culture should be conquered for Christ to His glory (*I Cor.10:31; II Cor.10:5*). We reject the Platonic view of reality in which matter is viewed as being evil.

## Chapter 13

### 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*).
- II. We believe that Christ commanded us to “judge a righteous judgment” ([John 7:24](#)). The following are three examples on the Biblical command of judging: 1. judging false prophets ([Matt. 7:6-20](#)); 2. judging so-called Christians who disobey God’s law as liars ([I John 2:4](#)); and 3. if they are pagans, we should judge them so ([I Cor. 6:9-11](#); [Gal. 5:19-21](#)).
- III. We believe Christ is the mighty God of the Old Testament ([2 Chronicles 10:29](#), [Hebrews 10:26-27, 31](#) & [Rev. 19:11-21](#)). (We reject the 19<sup>th</sup> century feminization of Christ, which portrays Him as an effeminate, weak, pale complexion and long hair in a womanly manner—this is not the Christ who survived in the wilderness for forty days without food).
- IV. 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!

Notes:

1. Information from Chapter 1, Article I, Subsections 1-7 excerpted from Dr. Robert Morey, *The Encyclopedia of Practical Christianity* (Las Vegas, Nevada; 2003). See Chapter 6, Page 45. ([www.faithdefenders.com](http://www.faithdefenders.com))
2. Highlighted numbers in red are the paragraph numbers from the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” (RCC), (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1994).

\* The above is read as Chapters, Articles and Subsections—for example, Chapter I, Article I, Subsections 1-7 is the first topic listed on page 1.

---

The [Voting Membership Statement of Faith](#) prepared by the **New Jersey Institute for the Advancement of Truth (NJAT)**. Any high school Bible Club or college Bible Club can use this Statement of Faith for their Bible Club. Website: [www.njia.com](http://www.njia.com)