



reach. love. imitate. duplicate.

McDONOUGH CHRISTIANCHURCH

Statement of Faith

ARTICLE 1 VISION

McDonough Christian Church exists...
to develop devoted followers of Jesus Christ who
love, imitate and duplicate Him in their surrendered lives.

ARTICLE 2 SALVATION ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:2

JESUS

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 4:14-15; Matthew 1:22, 23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son of God (Jesus Christ). He is present to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He convicts man of his sin through the preached Word. He lives in every Christian, providing them with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to walk with Him daily.

John 14:16-17; John 16:7b – 13; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

HUMANS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Every person has tremendous potential for good, but through man's choice all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God.

Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23

SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us that we must accept. We are saved by grace (God's part) through faith (our part). Our faith response is repentance (a turning from our self-ruled life to a Jesus ruled life), confession (that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the Living God), and baptism (immersion) as the scriptures command. We teach that salvation is by grace and accepted as a free gift from God. This grace is accepted through faith and reflected in our submission and obedience to God's Word and His will for our life.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; Romans 6:4-6; John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1, Acts 2:28, 1 Peter 3:21-22

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any error. We maintain that the Bible alone is sufficient for our rule of faith and practice. We go to the Bible for our authority in church government, as well as to learn the plan of salvation. Whatever the Bible commands us to do, those things we do; what the Bible forbids, from those we refrain; where the Bible is silent, there is freedom of discernment.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

ARTICLE 3

STATEMENT ON BAPTISM

The New Testament teaches that when a person puts his faith in Jesus, that process is culminated by immersion in water as a public testimony of that decision. In other words, God intended baptism to be part of how a person puts his faith in Jesus.

We aren't making a theological argument about the exact moment that a person is saved. Instead, we teach that after the resurrection of Jesus, there is no concept in the New Testament of an unbaptized believer.

We understand that there are people from other traditions who have confessed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, but were baptized as an infant, before they had faith. There are also other believers who confessed their faith in Jesus but were simply never taught the New Testament teaching of baptism. In these cases, we teach people to fulfill the teaching of the New Testament by being baptized (immersed) as a believing adult. We also require all un-baptized believers to be baptized before becoming a member of McDonough Christian Church.

ARTICLE 4

UNITY ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

THE CHURCH

The church is the body and bride of Christ. It is also the household of faith. It is a living temple where God dwells in His people. We believe that everyone who has been saved by Christ is a member of the church. We believe that the church exists throughout the world, and is witnessed and experienced in local autonomous gatherings of believers.

Romans. 12:4-5; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:3-10, 16; 5:24-32; Galatians. 6:10; 1 Peter 2:4-5; 1 Corinthians. 3:16; 12:12-27; Acts 14:23; Matt. 16:16-18; Acts 2:42-47; Colossians. 3:14-15

ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and grace. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is to have eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Revelation 20:15

COMMUNION

Communion is the commemoration and proclamation of Jesus' death until He comes, and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination. We believe that while the elements of Communion are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ who is present in a unique way, fellowshiping with His people. Communion is a memorial, a new covenant, and a proclamation. It is a sacred event for those who have a vital, biblical relationship with Jesus. At MCC, we observe communion every week.

Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; 1 Corinthians. 10:16; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

God has designed the local church like a physical body, with Jesus Christ as the head. God gifts each of His children in unique and special ways to serve and build up the body. Therefore, spiritual gifts are not for personal benefit or glory, but to bring God glory, as well as encouraging and building up the church. No one individual can have all the gifts. We are interdependent on each other; together we are the body of Christ, which is a clear demonstration of true diversity. There is no division as we all have equal concern and need for each other. One is an eye, another a hand, another a foot. We must be the part God designed us to be; if not, the body suffers and becomes ill.

1 Corinthians 12:17-30; 1 Corinthians. 14:4; Romans 12:6-8

END TIMES

We believe there will be a literal return of Christ and a judgment day. We also believe there will be a literal rapture (a catching up of the saints). No one knows when this will happen. We believe the details are in God's hands and this is not a

salvation issue.

Matthew 12:36; John 5:22, 16:8; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Peter 3:7; Jude 6

ETERNAL SECURITY

We teach that a person is saved by grace through faith. Salvation is a gift that is meant to be permanent and eternal. The Apostle Paul writes about Christians that “having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. There is a spectrum of belief among believers on this matter.

Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:8-10

MCC holds to the view of “Free Will” Salvation

It is impossible to “lose” your salvation or be tricked out of your salvation. However, the New Testament makes mention of the possibility that someone who is genuinely saved would throw away their own salvation by permanently rejecting the Holy Spirit, by turning their back on Christ permanently, or by turning away from the Gospel in favor of the Old Testament Law. Scripture cites this and uses language like “falling from grace” or “falling away.”

Gal.5:4; Heb.6:4-6; II Peter 2:20-21; Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; I Thessalonians 5:19; James 5:19-20

ARTICLE 5

STATEMENT OF MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of McDonough Christian Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the MCC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by McDonough Christian Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and repent from their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of McDonough Christian Church.