***CHSN STATEMENT OF FAITH***

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The Bible (Scriptures)

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. The sixty-six books that constitute the Bible are "God-breathed" and without error in their original writings and are the complete and sufficient revelation of God’s will for the salvation of mankind. Being entirely reliable and truthful, the Bible is fully authoritative and stands as the central authority over our lives, our faith, and the direction of the church. This authority is derived simply because the Bible is the Word of God, and does not come from a church, council, creed or tradition. (Matthew 5:18; Mark 12:26, 36; 13:11; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; Acts 1:16; 8:27-39; 17:2-3; 18:28; 26:22-23; 28:23; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 10:11;2 Timothy 3:16)

God

We believe in one true and eternal God, unchanging and unchangeable.  He is the Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existent in three (co-equal) persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person is fully and completely God and possesses all the attributes of God (The Divine Nature) as described in the Scriptures.  The Three Persons have eternally existed in relationship described by the term "Trinity." God is both self-existent and personal. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-3; 1:14; 14:10-11, 26; 15:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6)

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the Son, is fully God and fully man. He was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, died for the sins of humanity, was resurrected bodily on the third day, ascended into heaven and is coming again as King and Judge. We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ dying in our place (a propitiation for our sins).  No other work can provide for the forgiveness of sins, and no addition can be made to the completed and finished work of Christ.  (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; I Corinthians 15:1-8; Galatians 3:13; Isaiah 7:14; Romans 8:34; Acts 1:10)

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God. He came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. He indwells us at the moment we place our faith in Christ and enables us to live a life that is pleasing to God. The Holy Spirit also endows each believer with unique spiritual gifts to serve the church. (John 14:16, 15: 26-27, 16:9-14; Romans 8: 9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 5: 22-26; Ephesians 1:13-14)

Human Condition

We believe that man was created in the image of God.  Man rebelled against His Creator, and fell into sin.  As a result, man became spiritually dead, totally unwilling and incapable of seeking after God, and became subject to the power of the devil.  This spiritual death, or total depravity of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire human race of man (past, present and future), with the Man Christ Jesus alone being the one exception.  Mankind continues to stand in rebellion to God, and it is only through the finished work of Christ Jesus that man can be reconciled unto Him. (Genesis 1:26; 2:17; 6:5; John 3:6; 5:40; Romans 3:10-20, 23; 6:23; 8:6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 3:8)

Salvation

We believe that God, in His sovereign grace and mercy, regenerates sinful men by the power of the Holy Spirit (born again); not by any action of their own (good works, baptism, or otherwise), bring them to new life.  God grants to them the gifts of faith and repentance, which they then exercise by believing in Christ and turning from their sins in love for God.  As a result of this faith, based upon the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, God reconciles, justifies or makes righteous the one who believes.  Gods' gift of faith, and continuing work of the Holy Spirit (Sanctification) in the lives of His people, results in good works.  The good works flow from true, saving faith; they are a necessary result of faith, but not to be considered necessary to the gaining of justification, which is by God's grace through faith alone, so that no one can boast. We believe that once a person comes to know Christ as their Savior, that their salvation is guaranteed by the blood of Christ and is eternally secure. (Matthew 26:28; John 3:5; 3:15-18; Romans 5:6-11 Ephesians 1:13; 2:4-9; Romans 8:38-39; 10:9-10; Titus 3:5; James 2:14-26)

The Church

We believe Jesus Christ established His Church which is made up of all believers in Christ.  His Church, as an obedient bride, listens to His Word as found in the Bible.  All who believe in Christ are placed in His body, the Church.  The local expressions of the Church are very important, and each believer should be actively involved in such a fellowship.  (Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:42; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:3-10; 5:25-33; Colossians 3:14-17)