Statement of Faith

Section 4.01 Statement of Faith
The following comprise the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

(A) The Holy Scriptures. The members of Old Scenic Community Church believe in the Holy Bible, and that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim.3:16) We believe that holy men of God "…were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21) to write the very words of Scripture. We believe this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of Scripture as it appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that the whole Bible in those original manuscripts is, therefore, without error. We believe that all Scripture centers around the Lord Jesus Christ in His person, work, and in His first and second coming. Therefore, no portion of the Old Testament is properly read or understood until it leads to Christ. We also believe that all Scripture was designed for our practical instruction.

(B) The Triune Godhead. The members of Old Scenic Community Church believe in the one true and living God, the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, and is revealed to us as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(1)God the Father: The members of Old Scenic Community Church believe God, as Father, reigns over all of His universe with providential care. He is all-powerful, all-loving, all-knowing, and all-wise. He is fatherly in attitude toward all men but is Father, indeed, to those who have become children of God through Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:1; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:9; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Corinthians 15: 24; Ephesians 4:6)

(2)God the Son: The members of Old Scenic Community Church believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, is the eternal Son of God, who became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. He accomplished this redemption by voluntarily giving Himself as a sinless, substitute sacrifice on the cross, thereby satisfying God's righteous judgment against sin. After substantiating the accomplishment of that redemption and justification by His bodily resurrection from the grave, He ascended to the right hand of His Father, where He intercedes on behalf of those who trust Him. (Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18; Romans 3:24-26; Romans 8:3)

(3) God the Holy Spirit: The members of Old Scenic Community Church believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Person who convicts the world of sin (righteousness and judgment); that He alone brings new life to those who are spiritually dead; that He baptizes (or places) all believers into the one true Church, which is the Body of Christ; that He indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of final redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon them, and fills (controls) those who are yielding to Him. Every believer is called to live in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit so that he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh but will bear fruit to the glory of God (John 3:3-8; 14:16-17; 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 13; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18)
. (Luke 24:27, 44; instruction John 5:39; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16)

(C) The Total Depravity of Man. We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen 1: 26-27; Rom 3: 22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph 2: 1-3; 4: 17-19)

(D) Salvation. We believe that salvation is a gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sins, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable. (Matt 12:31-32; John 1:12; Eph 1:7; 2:8-10; I Pet 1:18-19; I John 1:9)

(E) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

(1) We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom 8:1; 38-39; I Cor 1:4-8; I Pet 1:4-5)

(2) We believe that it is the privilege of the believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom 13:13-14; Gal 5:13; Titus 2:11-13)

(F) The Church

(1) We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons. (I Cor 12:12-14; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 1:22-23; 5:25-27)

(2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

(3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom 16:1, 4; I Cor 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; I Pet 5:1-4)

(4) We recognize water baptism and the Lords Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38; I Cor 11:23-26)

(G) Separation We believe that all saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. (Lev 19:28; Rom 12:1-2; 14:13; I Cor 6:19-20; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; 2 John 2:9-11)

(H) The Second Coming of Christ We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ, Who will rapture His church. Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps 89:3-4; Dan 2:31-45; Zech 14:4-11; I Thess 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

(I) The Eternal State

(1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt 25:46; John 5:28, 29: 11:25- 26; Rev 20:5-6, 12-13)

(2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul,

and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23; 3:21; I Thess 4:16-17; Rev 20:4-6) (I John3:2)

(3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16: 19-26; @ Thess 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev 20:11-15)

(J) The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7 Isaiah 14:12-17; Matt 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev 20:10)

(K) Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six days. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, The Day Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen 1-2; Ex 20:11)

(L) Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basis institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. We believe that we must obey the state unless it requires us to act contrary to our faith at which time, we must obey God Rather than the state. (Matt 22:15-22; Acts 5:29; Rom 13 1-7; Eph 5:22-24; Titus 3:1-2; Heb 13:17; I Pet 2:13-14)

(M) Human Sexuality and Marriage

(1) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen 2:24; 19:5; 26:8-9; Lev 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; I Cor 5:1; 6:9; I Thess 4:1-8; Heb 13:4)

(2) Old Scenic Community Church recognizes marriage as ordained and instituted by God and outlined in the Holy Scriptures as the union of one man and one woman based on a covenant pledged before God. (Genesis 2:23-24, Matt. 19:4-5, Mark 10:5-9, Eph. 5:30-31)

(3) Old Scenic Community Church believes that a wedding is a worship service and as such must be conducted in a manner consistent with our Purpose Statement, Statement of Faith, and published OSCC wedding policy.

(N) Family Relationships

(1) We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be leader of the home, and men are to be leaders (pastors, elders, and deacons) in the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal 3:28; Col 3:18; 1 Tim 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

(2) We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. The wife is to submit herself to the Spiritual leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline. (Gen 1:26-28; Ex 20:12; Deut 6:4-9; Ps 127:3-5; Prov 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk 10:6-12; 1 Cor 7:1-16; Eph 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col 3:18-21; Heb 13:4; 1 Pet 3:1-7)

(O) Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God disapproves of divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorced and remarried or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service. (Mal 2:14-17; Matt 19:3-12; Rom 7:1-3; 1 Tim 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

(P) Abortion

We believe that life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. (Job 3:16; Ps 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49;1, 5; Jer 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

Q) Euthanasia

It is God, not man, who determines when it is a person's time to die.
Life is a gift from God and must be respected from conception until death. Life is sacred and must only end from natural causes or judicial sentencing that agrees with scripture. Other than that, we believe that an intentional act causing or assisting death, even to eliminate suffering, is the sin of murder. Regarding life support, we pray to seek God's will. (Gen 9:6, Ex 20:13, 23:7; Lev 24:17, Matt 5:21; Acts 17:28)

(R) Love

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids stirring up strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev 19:18; Matt 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil 2:2-4; 2 Tim 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; John 3:17-18)

(S) Lawsuits Between Believers
We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that Christians may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (Matt 18:15-17; 1 Cor 6:1-8; Eph 4:31-32)

(T) Missions
We believe that God has given the church "The Great Commission" to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor 5:20))

(U) Giving
We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support his local church. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his tithe or offering once the gift has been made.(Gen 14:20; Prov 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:6-7; Gal 6:6; Eph 4:28; I Tim 5:17-18; I John 3:17)

Section 4.02 (Section 2.02)-Authority of Statement of Faith
The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all