



Purpose & Statement of Faith

Constitution: Articles II, III & IV

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

ACTS2 is an association of like-minded congregations who enter into fellowship with one another to fulfill Jesus' prayer in John 17 that we walk together relationally in unity and oneness. The Association provides a place of relationship, connection, discernment and accountability to congregations who seek innovative, relevant and effective ways to be faithful to the Gospel and their Anabaptist heritage as they minister in the world.

ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PRACTICES

We affirm the historic orthodox statements of the Christian faith regarding:

1. GOD

The nature of God as a Trinitarian being, One nature in three persons, eternal and Almighty, (*Mt. 3:16-17; Acts 2:32-33,38; Rev. 1:4-5*).

2. JESUS CHRIST

The person and work of Jesus Christ, God's only Son (*John 1:18; 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:9*), our Lord and Savior (*Lk. 2:11; Acts 5:30-32; 1 Jn. 4:14*), including His deity (*Jn. 1:1; Phil. 2:6; Col. 2:8-10*), virgin birth (*Mt. 1:18; Lk. 1:26-37*), sin-pardoning work on the cross (*Jn. 1:29; Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17*), resurrection from the dead (*Lk. 24:1-8; Acts 2:22-32; 1 Cor. 15:1-8*), ascension into heaven (*Lk. 24:50-51; Acts 1:9*), intercession for the saints (*Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 2:1*), promised return (*Mt. 25:31; Acts 1:10-11; 2 Thess. 1:7*), and ongoing ministry in and through His body and bride, the Church (*Eph. 5:25-32*).

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit (*John 14:15-18; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Cor. 12:7-11*).

4. THE BIBLE

The sixty-six books of the Bible, in the original language are the only inspired and therefore the inerrant Word of God. The Bible is the final authority for all we believe, and how we are to live (*Pr. 30:5; Mt. 24:35; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*).

5. FINAL DESTINY

The final state of the righteous and of the wicked: the blessedness of Heaven for believers and eternal suffering in Hell for unbelievers (*Mt. 25:31-46; Lk. 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15*).

We affirm the following Scriptural understandings of:

1. There are only two biological human sexes, male and female, as established by God at creation (Gen. 2:21-24), and one's gender corresponds to their biological sex.
 2. The sanctity of marriage between one biological male and one biological female and that sexual intimacy is only to be enjoyed within the covenant of marriage (Lev. 18; 1 Cor. 6:15-20; Heb. 13:4).
 3. The sanctity of all human life from conception until death (Gen. 1:27; Ex. 20:13; Ps. 139:13-16).
 4. The importance of the care of the poor and weak (Gal. 2:10).
 5. The importance of the witness of the church to go into the world to evangelize and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).
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We value Anabaptist and Pietist emphasis on:

1. Believers' baptism (Acts 2:38).
 2. The importance of discipleship and following Jesus in daily life (Mt. 28:19-20; Lk. 14:25-35; Rom. 1:5).
 3. The church as a gathered community (Heb. 10:25) of encouragement, accountability and equipping (Eph. 4:14-16).
 4. The need for peaceful, non-violent resolution of conflict: personal, corporate, national, and global (Mt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 6:1-8).
 5. The priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:4-5; Rev. 1:6).
 6. The importance of living transformed lives in the world (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:23-24).
 7. The present reality of the kingdom of heaven breaking into this world, with the beliefs, practices, priorities and values of the reign of God (Mt. 6:10; Jn. 18:36; 2 Cor. 10:3-4).
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Article IV. AUTONOMY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We value both the autonomy of the local church and voluntary, mutual submission of leaders to one another in Christ, acknowledging that the tension that lies between these two ideals fosters integrity and maturity, leading to relational accountability.