



STATEMENT OF FAITH

In the essentials, unity. In the non-essentials, liberty. In all our beliefs, love.

Abundant Life Church is a nondenominational church that believes in the authority of the Christian Scriptures for our life and practice. We hold to the historic teachings of Christian orthodoxy as articulated in the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed.

The fundamental teachings of Abundant Life Church are reflected in the following statements:

GOD THE FATHER

The first person of the Trinity orders and directs all things according to His purpose and pleasure. He has created humanity to bring Him glory and honor, through His grace. While He is transcendent, He is also actively involved in His creation—offering an eternal relationship with us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 6:9; John 5:19-24; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:1-10

GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is both the eternal Son of God and virgin-born Son of man. Fully God, fully man, He surrendered nothing of His deity during His earthly life. His sinless, sacrificial offering on the cross satisfied the Father's justice, offering atonement for all of humanity's sins for all time. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His physical ascension, and His visible return back to earth to establish His earthly kingdom.

John 1:14-18; John 5:18; Colossians 1:15-20; Colossians 2:9

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit executes the will of God in this world through humanity by leading, guiding, filling, teaching, and convicting. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but a person, displaying the qualities of personhood (intellect, emotions, and will). The Holy Spirit fills and equips believers by giving them gifts to be used for the building up of the church and by bearing fruit through their yielded lives.

John 16:7-11; Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:22-25

HUMANITY

We are created in the image of God, destined to enjoy an intimate relationship with Him and one another, fulfilling His will here on earth. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever! However, through Adam and Eve's willful sin in the garden, sin entered the world and has infected all of humanity. Due to our inherent sinful nature received from our father Adam, we are separated from God, spiritually dead, and destined for physical death and an eternity removed from God.

Genesis 1-3; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3

SALVATION

Jesus Christ died for our sins as the only sufficient sacrifice, offering atonement for the sin of all humankind through His death, burial, and resurrection. While salvation is available to all, it is only experienced by those who receive His gracious gift by faith, apart from works. As a result of our new relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, we are called to a life of submission to the Holy Spirit, manifesting spiritual fruit, and walking in good works that God has prepared beforehand for us to do. *John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9; Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 John 5:11-13; Galatians 3:26; John 3:16*

THE BIBLE

We believe every word of the sixty-six books of the Bible are inspired by God equally in all parts and is infallible in its origin, as the accepted canon of the Scriptures. The Word of God reveals God's nature and will for all of humanity and is to be the foundation of faith and practice. We affirm that while God's Word is accurate in all matters, it is not given as an end in and of itself, but rather a means to a relationship with God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 4:12; John 17:17; Romans 15:4

THE CHURCH

All who place their faith in God through His Son, Jesus Christ, are a part of the universal body of believers known as the Church. The purpose of the local church is to lead people to Christ and bring them to maturity in Him, establishing God's Kingdom here on earth. Members of the local church are to live lives in covenant relationship and humble mutual submission to other Spirit-led believers and to the God-appointed leaders of the church. Abundant Life Church is an autonomous local assembly led by Jesus Christ, who directs as the head of this body through a team of appointed, biblically qualified Elders who are equal in value having distinct functions, with the Lead Pastor as the first among equals.

Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Romans 8:14

THE KINGDOM

The kingdom of God is the rule of God over his people in his creation, established through Jesus in the new covenant, which is now present in the world, though it is awaiting its fulfillment at the second coming of Christ. One day Jesus will return to consummate the blessings of the kingdom, at which time he will set up the new heavens and new earth. In the meantime, we live in the "already and not yet" of the kingdom, serving our King by joining Him in the work of renewal on earth and looking forward to his return.

Revelation 21:5, Luke 12:32, Matthew 4:17, John 3:3, Zechariah 14:9, Mark 1:15, Matthew 16:19, Matthew 6:9-10

THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is the good news that God our Father, the Creator, because of His glory and out of His great love for us, has come to rescue us from sin, Satan, death, and hell. To renew all things in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, and to establish His Kingdom through his people, in the power

of the Holy Spirit. This is for God's great glory and our profound joy.

Romans 1:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, Acts 20:24, Mark 16:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:14, Luke 4:18

NONESSENTIALS

We affirm that the doctrines of the Trinity, the deity of Christ, the bodily resurrection, the atoning work of Christ on the cross, and salvation by grace through faith make up the essential, distinctive nature of Christianity. We acknowledge that there are peripheral, nonessential doctrines that are important to fellow believers but may not be critical to salvation. *While ALC may hold positions on these nonessentials, we will not allow these doctrines to cause division within the church. We will welcome into our church family those who have differing views on the nonessential doctrines but will not allow those of a different opinion to fracture the church.*

IN ADDITION TO THE ESSENTIALS, WE DO BELIEVE:

- In the public gathering of the Church together for prayer, worship, teaching and preaching of the Bible and the administering of the sacraments of the church.
Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 11; Hebrews 10:25
- The Bible defines marriage as the covenant relationship between one man and one woman. The importance of this union to society requires that we support and protect marriage as the Word of God does.
Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:4-6
- Humanity as a whole is united in origin, in the fall, and in the provision of the atonement through Jesus Christ, making every person equally worthy of love and forgiveness; as well as just and unbiased treatment.
John 3:16; Acts 10:34; 17:26; Romans 5:6-21; Colossians 3:8-16
- God's eternal purpose involves all races and nations, culminating in every nation, tribe and tongue being represented before His throne.
Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 2:14-18; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Revelation 5:9; 7:9
- The Church of Jesus Christ is the last instrument that God is using to extend His Kingdom prior to the second coming of Christ.
Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:20-23; 3:10
- The local church is autonomous; it is self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating in its mature state.
Acts 2; 13:1-4
- We believe communion is our opportunity to remember the deity, humanity, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This opportunity, which is a culmination of our celebration and

worship, is provided for all believers following the precedent of the early church and shared in this remembrance.

Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-29

- We believe in the necessity of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Eternal Godhead in order to fulfill the command of Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; 19:1-6
- We believe all we have (time, talent, and resources) comes from God and belongs to God. As stewards of the portion God has entrusted to us, we are to manage resources well and support the mission of God through the local church by tithing. 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.
Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17