

# **New Song Church Affirming Christian Ministry**

## **Statement of Beliefs**

The saving gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news that eternal life is a free gift available to everyone. The Lord Jesus purchased our redemption on Calvary so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life, irrespective of their faithfulness in Christian living.

Our purpose at New Song Church aligns with the Great Commission, to make and nurture devoted, knowledgeable disciples of Christ. Grounded in a relationship with our Lord Jesus, mature believers will not only be welcomed into His Kingdom, but will also reign with Him and enjoy intimate fellowship with Him throughout eternity.

New Song Church Affirming Christian Ministry, including its leadership and members, affirm the following:

**1. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ** – The Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is both fully God and fully man. The Scriptures declare His virgin birth, sinless life and miracles, His substitutionary work on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His exaltation to the right hand of God the Father, and His ultimate reign throughout eternity.

**2. The Deity of the Holy Spirit** – The Holy Spirit is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son and is active in the life of the believer as the generator of the new birth experience and the guide, counselor, helper, comforter, and instructor of the believer.

**3. The Scriptures Inspired** – In Its original form, the Bible is the inerrant, infallible word of God. It is our highest authority and our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. All rhema and prophetic words are measured against and subject to Scripture. The canon of Scripture is closed, and no one can add to or take away from Scripture.

**4. The Fall of Man** – God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.” Thus, man was created good and upright. However, by voluntary transgression, man fell and thereby incurred not only a physical death, but also a spiritual death, which is separation from God.

**5. Salvation** – Redemption from the fall is offered as an irrevocable, free gift of eternal life to all of humanity, regardless of sin. Scripture promises that anyone who believes in Him has eternal life. Therefore, anyone who has ever believed may rest assured they will not be condemned to hell.

**6. Affirmation of All Believers** – Everyone, regardless of age, race, gender expression, and sexual orientation, can receive eternal life through believing in Jesus Christ and therefore has the privilege to be used by God in the world. Every

believer is free to live a life of discipleship and holiness as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Specifically, New Song Church Affirming Christian Ministry is LGBTQ founded and affirming. Scripture does not condemn Christ-centered, monogamous, covenant, same-gender relationships. We affirm that the lives of LGBTQ Christians do not contradict the authority of Scripture.

**7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** – All believers are entitled to and should seek the promise of the Father, the baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire. With it comes the endowment of power for life, service, and the activation of spiritual gifts for ministry. This experience is distinct from the experience of the new birth and infilling of the Holy Spirit at salvation and is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance.

**8. Sanctification** – Sanctification is an ongoing process in the life of a faithful believer that allows one to serve God wholeheartedly and to resist the temptation to sin. Sanctification is experienced through a life of consistent personal devotion to God, corporate worship, and moral integrity, as described in Scripture. While everyone who ever believed in Jesus for eternal life will be in the family of God, only those who choose to serve Him will experience the process of sanctification.

**9. The Church and Its Mission** – The Church is the Body of Christ, made up of those who have believed in Christ Jesus for eternal life. Members of Christ's church serve as the habitation of God on the earth through the Holy Spirit. The local church is to be like a family, grounded in love, that gathers corporately and consistently to worship, teach the gospel, make disciples, and equip believers for the work of the ministry.

**10. The Ordinances of the Church** –

- *Baptism by immersion* identifies the believer publicly with Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The illustration represented by baptism is that one has died with Christ and has been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life. Baptism is not required for salvation, but represents an act of obedience for faithful Christians.
- *The Lord's Supper* (holy communion, consisting of bread and the fruit of the vine), illustrates that Christians are partakers of the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. Holy communion memorializes His suffering and death, and proclaims His death until His return.
- *Marriage relationships* are a model of Christ's love for the Church and require covenant faithfulness between two partners. We affirm gay marriage, while holding Scripture as our highest authority.
- *Ordination of New Song Church staff* is a public acknowledgment of appointment to a leadership position in New Song Church.

**11. The Ministry** – We believe in the royal priesthood, or ministry of all believers to worship, evangelize, and make disciples of all nations. Scripture describes gifts

given to believers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. The “five-fold ministry” consists of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

**12. Miracles and Spiritual Gifts** – We believe in the ongoing operation of miracles, including those of healing, freedom from bondage to sin and addiction, and miracles of supernatural provision. Spiritual gifts, ministerial gifts, and ongoing revelation of Scriptural truths by the Holy Spirit are still in operation today, just as they were in the New Testament.

**13. The Blessed Hope** – We believe in the imminent rapture of the Church, including bodily resurrection, followed by the tribulation period on earth and the second coming to the earth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers will be judged at the Bema Judgment seat where works are tried and eternal rewards are distributed. This is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.

**14. Rewards and Loss at the Judgment** – Scripture reveals that various rewards are available at the Bema Judgment for faithful believers. Some of those include commendations, crowns, and positions of authority in the coming Kingdom. The reverse is also true. Those in His family who do not serve Him faithfully in life will “suffer loss” at the judgment. As members of God’s family, we are obligated to live according to the Spirit, not the flesh. The punishment for failure to do so will involve loss of inheritance but never a loss of eternal life. Everyone who has believed in Jesus for eternal life is saved and will be in the eternal Kingdom of God.

Every point in this document can be referenced in Scripture. We’re happy to provide scriptural references for anything noted above upon request.