

STATEMENT OF FAITH REVISIONS

APRIL 28, 2023

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It is recommended that the **Statement of Faith** recommendations be **adopted by General Council in the order presented and without amendments.**

Purple = adopted at 2021 General Council, requires ratification at 2023 General Council

Orange = new proposal, requires adoption by 2023 and 2025 General Councils

STATEMENT OF FAITH REVISIONS

Whereas, Much prayerful dialog and consideration has been given to possible changes in our Statement of Faith;

Whereas, Due to time constraints, Council 2021 was not able to complete their deliberations and voting regarding the proposed Statement of Faith changes;

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Whereas, Delegates at Council 2021, the Theological Issues Committee, and the official workers who engaged in the continuing National Conversation and/or responded to the 60-day period of feedback gave thoughtful input inspiring additional changes and edits; and

Whereas, These proposals strengthen the C&MA and its mission,

Section 1.1

There is one God¹, who is infinitely perfect², existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.³
(¹Deuteronomy 6:4, ²Matthew 5:48, ³Matthew 28:19)

Be amended as follows:

There is one God¹ (**Deut. 6:4**), **Creator of all things (Rev. 4:11)**, who is infinitely perfect² (**Matt. 5:48**), existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (**Matt. 28:19**).³ (~~¹Deuteronomy 6:4,~~
~~²Matthew 5:48,~~ ~~³Matthew 28:19~~)

Section 1.2

Jesus Christ is true God and true man.⁴ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.⁵ He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust,⁶ as a substitutionary sacrifice,⁷ and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.⁸ He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.⁹ He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest.¹⁰ He will come again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and peace.¹¹ (⁴Phil. 2:6-11, ⁵Luke 1:34-38, ⁶1 Pet. 3:18, ⁷Heb. 2:9, ⁸Rom. 5:9, ⁹Acts 2:23-24, ¹⁰Heb. 8:1, ¹¹Matt. 26:64)

Be amended as follows:

Jesus Christ is **the** true God and true man (**Phil. 2:6-11**).⁴ He was **sent by the Father (John 20:21)**, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the **v**Virgin, Mary (**Luke 1:34-38**).⁵ He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust (**1 Pet. 3:18**),⁶ as a substitutionary sacrifice (**Hebrews 2:9**),⁷ and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (**Rom. 5:9**).⁸ He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures

(1 Cor. 15:3-4).⁹ He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest (**Heb. 8:1**).¹⁰ He will come again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and peace (**Isa. 9:6-7**).¹¹

(⁴Philippians 2:6-11, ⁵Luke 1:34-38, ⁶1 Peter 3:18, ⁷Hebrews 2:9, ⁸Romans 5:9, ⁹Acts 2:23-24, ¹⁰Hebrews 8:1, ¹¹Matthew 26:64)

Section 1.3

The Holy Spirit is a divine person,¹² sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer,¹³ and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.¹⁴

(¹²John 14:15–18, ¹³John 16:13 and Acts 1:8, ¹⁴John 16:7–11)

Be amended as follows:

The Holy Spirit is a divine person (**John 14:16-18**),¹² sent to indwell, guide, teach, **gift**, empower, and **bear His fruit in every** the believer (**John 16:13; 1 Cor. 12:4, 11; Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22-23**).¹³ and convince **He convicts** the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (**John 16:7-11**).¹⁴ (~~¹²John 14:15-18,~~ ~~¹³John 16:13 and Acts 1:8,~~ ~~¹⁴John 16:7-11)~~

Section 1.4

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.¹⁵ (¹⁵2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:15-16).

Be amended as follows:

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the **our** ~~salvation of men~~. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.¹⁵ (¹⁵2 Pet. 1:20-21, and 2 Tim. 3:15-~~16~~ **17**).

Section 1.6

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.²¹

(²¹Titus 3:4-7)

Be amended as follows:

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men **people (1 John 2:2).**~~;~~ ~~and t~~Those who repent and believe in Him are **justified by grace through faith (Rom. 3:21-24),** born again of the Holy Spirit **(Titus 3:4-7), delivered from the dominion of darkness, transferred into the Kingdom of God's Son (Col. 1:13),** ~~receive~~**granted** the gift of eternal life, and ~~become~~**adopted as** the children of God **(Rom. 8:14-16, John 1:12).**²¹ ~~(²¹Titus 3:4-7)~~

Section 1.8

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.²⁵ Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age.²⁶ (²⁵Matthew 8:16–17, ²⁶James 5:13–16)

Be amended as follows:

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the **whole person (Isa. 53:4-5, Matt. 8:16-17)**~~mortal body.~~²⁵ Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures **(James 5:13-16)** and are **as** privileges for the Church in this present age **(Acts 4:30).**²⁶ ~~(²⁵Matthew 8:16-17, ²⁶James 5:13-16)~~

Section 1.10

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;³⁰ for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.³¹ (³⁰1 Corinthians 15:20–23, ³¹John 5:28–29)

Be amended as follows:

There ~~shall~~**will** be a bodily resurrection of **all people** (Acts 24:15). Our Lord Jesus Christ will judge with perfect justice (Acts 17:31, John 5:28-30) as the unrepentant and unbelieving are raised to the conscious anguish of eternal separation from God (Rev. 20:15, 21:8, 2 Thess. 1:9), and repentant believers are raised (John 6:54) to the unending joy of eternal life with God (Ps. 16:11, Rev. 21:1-4).~~the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;³⁰ for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.³¹ (³⁰1 Corinthians 15:20-23, ³¹John 5:28-29)~~

The section will then read:

There will be a bodily resurrection of all people (Acts 24:15). Our Lord Jesus Christ will judge with perfect justice (Acts 17:31, John 5:28-30) as the unrepentant and unbelieving are raised to the conscious anguish of eternal separation from God (Rev. 20:15, 21:8, 2 Thess. 1:9), and repentant believers are raised (John 6:54) to the unending joy of eternal life with God (Ps. 16:11, Rev. 21:1-4).

Section 1.5

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God: ¹⁶ he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, ¹⁷ are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁸ The portion of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment; ¹⁹ and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss.²⁰ (¹⁶Genesis 1:27, ¹⁷Romans 3:23, ¹⁸1 Corinthians 15:20-23, ¹⁹Revelation 21:8, ²⁰Revelation 21:1-4)

Be amended as follows:

Man **and woman**, ~~was originally~~ created in the image and likeness of God (**Gen. 1:27**);¹⁶ ~~he~~ fell through disobedience, incurring ~~thereby~~ both physical and spiritual death (**Rom. 6:23**). ~~All men are~~ **Therefore, everyone is** born with a sinful nature (**Rom. 5:12**),¹⁷ ~~are~~ **is** separated from the life of God (**Eph. 4:18**), and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Rom. 3:25**).¹⁸ ~~The portion of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment;~~¹⁹ ~~and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss.~~²⁰ (¹⁶Genesis 1:27, ¹⁷Romans 3:23, ¹⁸1 Corinthians 15:20-23, ¹⁹Revelation 21:8, ²⁰Revelation 21:1-4)

The section will then read:

Man and woman, created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:27), fell through disobedience, incurring both physical and spiritual death (Rom. 6:23). Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature (Rom. 5:12), is separated from the life of God (Eph. 4:18), and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:25).

Section 1.7

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly,²² being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service.²³ This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.²⁴

(²²1 Thessalonians 5:23, ²³Acts 1:8, ²⁴Romans 6:1-14)

Be amended as follows:

It is the will of God that **in Christ (Col. 1:27)** each believer ~~should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly (1 Thess. 5:23),²² being separated from sin, and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God (Rom. 6:13), and filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service (Acts 1:8).²³~~ **Positional sanctification occurs at conversion while experiential sanctification follows and involves** ~~is both a decisive points of complete surrender (Rom. 12:1) crisis and a progressive experience (Gal. 5:16, 25) wrought through which Christ is formed in the life of the believer by the Spirit subsequent to conversion (Gal. 4:19, Rom. 6:1-14).²⁴ (²²1 Thessalonians 5:23, ²³Acts 1:8, ²⁴Romans 6:1-14)~~

The amended section will then read:

It is the will of God that in Christ (Col. 1:27) each believer be sanctified wholly (1 Thess. 5:23), being separated from sin, fully dedicated to God (Rom. 6:13), and filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service (Acts 1:8). Positional sanctification occurs at conversion while experiential sanctification follows and involves both decisive points of complete surrender (Rom. 12:1) and a progressive experience (Gal. 5:16, 25) through which Christ is formed in the life of the believer by the Spirit (Gal. 4:19, Rom. 6:1–14).

Section 1.9

The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church,²⁷ which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.²⁸

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.²⁹ (²⁷Ephesians 1:22-23, ²⁸Matthew 28:19-20, ²⁹Acts 2:41-47)

Be amended as follows:

The Church consists of all those who believe ~~on~~**in** the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again by the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of ~~the~~**His** Body (**Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18**), the Church,²⁷ which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world **making disciples of all peoples (Matt. 24:14, 28:19-20)**. ~~as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.~~²⁸

The local church is a body of believers in Christ (**Eph. 5:30**) who are **called to love (1 Thess. 3:12) and** joined together for the worship of God, ~~for~~edification through the Word of God, ~~for~~prayer, fellowship, ~~the~~ proclamation of the gospel **through word and deed (Luke 4:18-19)**, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (**Acts 2:41-47**).²⁹ (~~²⁷Ephesians 1:22-23, ²⁸Matthew 28:19-20, ²⁹Acts 2:41-47~~)

The amended section will then read:

The Church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again by the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of His Body (Eph. 1:22–23, Col. 1:18), the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world making disciples of all peoples (Matt. 24:14, 28:19–20).

The local church is a body of believers in Christ (Eph. 5:30) who are called to love (1 Thess. 3:12) and joined together for the worship of God, edification through the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, proclamation of the gospel through word and deed (Luke 4:18–19), and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41–47).

Section 1.11

The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent³² and will be personal, visible, and premillennial.³³

This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.³⁴ (³²Hebrews 10:37, ³³Luke 21:27, ³⁴Titus 2:11-14)

Whereas, The C&MA has always been a predominantly premillennial movement;

Whereas, The C&MA has also historically had some openness to those who embrace our mission and other aspects of our doctrine who may not be premillennial; and

Whereas, This proposal would require official workers to embrace all other areas of our Statement of Faith, including the imminent return of Jesus Christ and the missional impetus provided by His return,

Be amended as follows:

Preamble:

This preamble paraphrases the words of our founder, Dr. A. B. Simpson, penned in 1887. They are found in the preamble and body of the first constitution of what was then known as The Christian Alliance. We continue to embrace this spirit within The Christian and Missionary Alliance (the C&MA) today.

The C&MA is a family of believers who share in common the fullness of Jesus in His present grace and coming glory. The C&MA is not intended to be sectarian in a way that would divide it from the broader body of evangelical churches. Rather, it is the intent of the C&MA to fellowship and partner with all Christians, churches, and denominations who, like us, cling to "the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3).

We understand that some will desire to be members and official workers in the C&MA who are in agreement with our mission and our doctrinal principles with the exception that they may not fully embrace the doctrine of the premillennial return of Jesus Christ. Such people may be received into membership and licensed for ministry so long as they embrace all the other tenets of our Statement of Faith and are willing to give the matter of premillennialism their honest and prayerful consideration.

Section 1.11: The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, **our Lord and King (Rev. 19:16)**, is imminent (**Heb. 10:37, Rev. 22:20**)³² and will be **sudden (1 Cor. 15:52)**, personal, visible, and premillennial (**Acts 1:11, Matt. 26:64, Rev. 20:1-7**).³³ This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which **calls us** ~~is an incentive to~~ holy living, **intentional witness**, and faithful service (**Titus 2:11-14**).³⁴ (~~³²Hebrews 10:37, ³³Luke 21:27, ³⁴Titus 2:11-14)~~)

The amended section will then read:

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This preamble paraphrases the words of our founder, Dr. A. B. Simpson, penned in 1887. They are found in the preamble and body of the first constitution of what was then known as The Christian Alliance. We continue to embrace this spirit within The Christian and Missionary Alliance (the C&MA) today.

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(Jude 3).

We understand that some will desire to be members and official workers in the C&MA who are in agreement with our mission and our doctrinal principles with the exception that they may not fully embrace the doctrine of the premillennial return of Jesus Christ. Such people may be received into membership and licensed for ministry so long as they embrace all the other tenets of our Statement of Faith and are willing to give the matter of premillennialism their honest and prayerful consideration.

Section 1.11:

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King (Rev. 19:16), is imminent (Heb. 10:37, Rev. 22:20) and will be sudden (1 Cor. 15:52), personal, visible, and premillennial (Acts 1:11, Matt. 26:64, Rev. 20:1-7).- This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which calls us to holy living, intentional witness, and faithful service (Titus 2:11-14).