

**Statement of Faith
of the
Crosspoint Church of Asheville, NC**

Adopted by the Membership on February 27, 2011

We believe that the Holy Bible (in its original manuscripts) is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. In recognition of the Bible's final authority, we do hereby adopt, as our confession of faith, the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 (hereafter referred to as the "LBC").

"This ancient document is a most excellent summary of things most surely believed among us. We accept the same, not as an authoritative rule or code of faith, whereby we are to be fettered, but as an assistance to us in controversy, a confirmation in faith, a standard for church officers, and a means of instruction in righteousness for the body. In this Confession the members of our church will have a body of divinity in small compass and by means of Scriptural proofs will be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in them." (1 Peter 3:15; Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

As Baptists from a reformed tradition we have a rich heritage of sound statements and confessions of faith upon which we can draw to speak the truth to our generation. While Crosspoint Church *Elders and Deacons* must hold substantial agreement with the LBC, we also believe that with regard to church membership a more concise statement of our beliefs ought to be the standard for *membership* in Crosspoint Church. The Abstract of Principles (1858) is a systematic summary of doctrine and one of the earliest statements of faith found in the history of Christianity in America. With some minor editing, primarily to update the language, and more specifically to address the relevant issues of our own generation, we adopt it as our Statement of Faith. We have also added and edited four important sections - on creation, marriage, mission and the restoration of all things.

We set forth the following Statement of Faith with the prayer that it will encourage and strengthen our unity, fellowship, witness, enjoyment, and effectiveness in Gospel missions. Substantial agreement with the Statement of Faith is expected of all members.

1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, were given by the inspiration of God. They are the all-sufficient, certain, infallible, inerrant, authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and practice. Nothing, whether a supposed revelation of the Spirit or man's traditions, is ever to be added to the Scripture. No tradition of man, church council or denomination shall be accepted in place of the plain meaning of Scripture. We affirm that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the Scriptures, assuring believers of the truthfulness of God's written Word. We deny that this witness of the Holy Spirit operates in isolation from or against Scripture. Isaiah 8:20; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Revelation 22:18-21.

2. God and the Holy Trinity

There is only one true and living God. He is the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things. He is self-existent, infinite and eternal in His being and His perfections. God has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being. Exodus 3:14; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 1:15-20.

3. Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and all things, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days and all very good. God created man, male and female, in His image. He created man with reasonable and immortal souls in righteousness and holiness. Man owes to his Creator whatever worship, service or obedience He is pleased to require of him. Genesis 1:1, 31; John 1:1-4; Revelation 4:9-11.

4. Providence

Nothing happens by chance or outside of the sphere of God's providence. God with infinite holiness, love, power and wisdom, upholds, directs, controls and governs all things. Daniel 4:34-35; Psalm 115:1-3.

5. Sin and the Fall of Man

Man was originally created upright and free from sin. Through the temptation of Satan, Adam and Eve transgressed the command of God and fell from their original state of holiness and righteousness. Consequently, all their posterity inherits a nature corrupt and opposed to God and His law. All are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors. Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6-7; Romans 3:10-20; 5:12.

6. Election

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life - not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ - in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified. Ephesians 1:3-7; 1 Peter 1:1-4.

7. The Mediator

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, and suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe. Acts 14:6; Hebrews 7:20-28; 1 Timothy 2:5.

8. Regeneration

Regeneration is a change of heart, brought about by the Holy Spirit, who makes alive the dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone. Ephesians 2:4-5; Titus 3:5-7.

9. Repentance

Repentance and faith are inseparable. Repentance is a saving grace by which a sinner out of a true sense of sin and an understanding of the mercy of God in Christ, does with godly sorrow and hatred of sin turn from it to God, with a determination to walk before God so as to please Him in all things. Acts 20:21; Luke 24:46-48; 2 Corinthians 7:10.

10. Faith

Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority of whatever is revealed in His Word, receiving and resting upon Christ alone for justification, salvation and eternal life. It is worked in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness. Romans 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:1-6.

11. Justification

Justification is the gracious act by which God fully and completely forgives sinners and imparts to them the righteousness of Jesus Christ at the moment they believe. Justification is by faith in Jesus Christ. It is bestowed only on those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Romans 3:21-26; 4:4-5; 5:1-2, 17-19; 8:30.

12. Sanctification

Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all Christians seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in obedience to all Christ's commands. John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 12:14; 2 Peter 1:3-8.

13. Perseverance of the Saints

Those whom God has accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end. They may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, and grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves. They shall, however, be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John 10:27-30; Philipians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 2:19.

14. The Church

The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into local churches. To each of these churches He gives needful authority for administering the order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Pastors or Elders, and Deacons. Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-13.

15. Every Member Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

God is sovereign in the bestowing of spiritual gifts. It is, however, the believer's responsibility to develop their sovereignly given spiritual gift(s). The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at conversion and is the placing of the believer into the Body of Christ. It is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to minister according to the gift(s) and grace of God that is given to him. No gift is more essential than another, nor proves the presence of the Holy Spirit; neither is an indication of deep spiritual experience. 1 Corinthians 12:4-13; Ephesians 4:7-8; Romans 12:1-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

16. Baptism

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer. The believer is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church membership and to participation in the Lord's Supper. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:18-21.

17. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death and to confirm the faith and graces of Christians. It is to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him and of their church fellowship. 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-32; Luke 22:14-20.

18. Worship and the Lord's Day

Worship is to be given to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to Him alone. Since man's fall into sin, worship cannot be rendered to God without a mediator; and the only accepted mediator is Jesus Christ. The only acceptable way of worshipping the true God is appointed by Himself, in accordance with His own will. The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercise of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Exodus 20:1-6; Deuteronomy 12:32; 1 Timothy 2:5; Isaiah 58:13-14; Hebrews 4; 5.

19. Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience

Christ has purchased for all believers a liberty inherent in the gospel. It comprises freedom from the guilt of sin, from the condemnation that follows upon guilt, from the wrath of God, and from the severity and curse of God's law. It includes free access to God and the yielding of obedience to Him, not with the fear of a slave for his master, but with a childlike love and readiness. God alone is Lord of the conscience. He has set it free from all obligations to receive or obey any doctrines and demands of men which are in any respect in opposition to His Word or not contained in it. John 8:31-36; Galatians 5:13; 6:7-8; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24; 1 Corinthians 8.

20. Marriage

Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. It is not lawful for any man to have more than one wife, or for any woman to have more than one husband, at one and the same time. God instituted marriage for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind in accordance with His laws, and for the prevention of immorality. It is the duty of Christians to marry only "in the Lord". Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union that establishes the only normative pattern of sexual relations for men and women, such that marriage ultimately serves as a type of the union between Christ and his church. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. God ordains that they assume distinctive roles which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ, and the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord. In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God. The distinctive leadership role within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, fall, and redemption and must not be sidelined by appeals to cultural developments. Genesis 2:21-25; Matthew 19:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 39.

21. Missions and Evangelism

We believe God has redeemed every disciple and incorporated them into His Church, to make them ministers of reconciliation with Him and instruments for Him in the salvation of all the elect and the restoration of the fallen world, to the praise of His glory. Using the diversity of gifts given us by the Spirit and within the sphere of influence that divine providence has afforded us, each believer must put on a readiness to communicate the gospel of peace to the lost, calling upon them to repent of their sins and trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ as their only hope for righteousness before God. God has called some to be elect martyrs and bear their witness unto death for the cause of Christ. Nevertheless it is the calling of every saint to bear injustice and trial for the Name of Christ, for to this we have been called and received command in the final words of the Lord Jesus to all who follow Him. 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:1; Matthew 28:19-20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 8:1-4; Romans 1:16-18; 1 Peter 2:21; Revelation 6:10-11.

22. The Restoration of All Things

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with his holy angels, when he will exercise his role as final Judge, and his kingdom will be consummated. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust—the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord himself taught, and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness. On that day the church will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph of Christ, all sin purged and its wretched effects forever banished. God will be all in all and his people will be enthralled by the immediacy of his ineffable holiness, and everything will be to the praise of his glorious grace. Acts 1:9-11; 17:31; 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-6.