

SMCA STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe according to The Holy Bible that:

- 1) **The Holy Scriptures** (Bible) as originally given by God are divinely inspired, infallible, wholly inerrant, entirely trustworthy and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. *(Matt 5:18, 2 Tim 3:16-17; 1 Pet 1:23-25, 2 Pet 1:20-21)*
- 2) **God is Triune**, one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections *(Deut 6:4; John 1:1-2; 10:30; 1 Cor 8:6, 2 Cor 13:14)*
- 3) **The first person of the trinity is God the Father** – Supreme *(Deut 4:35, Isa 43:10, Isa 44:6)*, holy *(Lev 11:44, Rev 4:8)*, eternal *(Deut 33:27, 1Tim 1:17)*, all knowing *(Rom 11:33)*, unchanging *(Jam 1:17)*, everywhere present *(Ps 139:7-12)*, all powerful *(2 Chron 20:6, Ro 1:20)*, personal *(John 1:10-13)*, spirit *(John 4:24)*– perfect and infinite in love *(Ps 33:5, Ro 8:38-39)*, wisdom *(1 Cor 1:20-21)*, righteousness *(2 Cor 5:21)*, justice *(Deut 32:4)*, and goodness *(Ps 100:5)*, worthy of all worship, obedience, honor, glory, and praise *(Ps 105:2, Eph Rev 4:11, Rev 19:5)* in oneness and perfect unity with the Son and Holy Spirit *(Eph 3:14-21)*
- 4) **The second person of the trinity is the Lord Jesus Christ** – God in the flesh *(John 1:1-5, 14; Matt 16:16-17, Col 1:15-17, 2:9-10)* virgin born through the Holy Spirit *(Mat 1:18-25& Luke 1:26-38)*, fully human *(John 1:14; 1 Tim 2:5)*, sinless *(2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5)*; providing substitutionary atonement for sin *(John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10; Romans 3:24-25, 5:8)*, bodily resurrected *(John 20:12-18; 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 1 Pet 1:3)*, ascended into Heaven *(Acts 1:9-10, Heb 9:24)*, seating at the right hand of God the Father to make intercession for the saints (believers) *(Rom 8:34)*, and visibly returning to earth to reign in righteousness and glory *(Acts 1:11; Matt 24:27, Rev. 1:7;)*
- 5) **The third person of the trinity is the Holy Spirit** – working in people to bring conviction of sin, regeneration to unbelievers, and sanctification within believers, indwelling every believer, equipping them with gifts for service and witness *(John 16: 8-11; 1st Thess. 5:23; 1st Cor. 12: 4-11)*
- 6) **Mankind** was created in God's image (will, intellect, and emotion) free from sin and that through the temptation prompted by Satan rebelled against God bringing a curse to creation and subjecting all men to condemnation and eternal death. *(Gen 1:26-27, Gen 2:21-22, Gen 3:1-19, Jer 17:9, Rom 3:23, Eph 2:1-3, Heb 9:27)*

- 7) **Salvation** from sin and death has been provided by God only through new birth secured by individually placing faith in (trusting in, relying upon) Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sin, inclusion into the body of Christ (the universal church), impartation of the indwelling Holy Spirit, promise of everlasting life, and commissioning to live holy lives and make disciples by following Jesus' life examples and teaching. **(Rom 3:10-18, 23; 1 Cor. 3:1b; John 3:3-7; Acts 4:12; Romans 12:1-2)**
- 8) **The church** as the one universal body of Christ who is the Head, called to be God's redeemed people. **(Eph. 5:23; Eph. 1:22)**
- 9) **God is the creator of all that** exists and that nothing would exist without God. In addition, God's creation has a design and purpose which only He can and will bring to fruition. This creation was brought into existence and acted upon by God in accordance with the literal interpretation of the account described in the book of Genesis. **(The book of Genesis including 1:1-2:25, 3:1-24, 6:1-8:22, 11:1-9, 15:1-20...; Exo 20:11; Col 1:16-17; 2 Pe 3:5-7)**

Concerning Human Sexuality

We believe that God created humans male and female. God created sex for the purposes of procreation and intimacy, only to be shared between a husband and wife. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, transgenderism, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. **(Gen 2:24; Gen 19:5-7, 13; Gen 26:8-9; Lev 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; 1 Cor 5:1, 6:9-19; Gal 5:19-21, 1 Thes 4:1-8; 1 Tim 1:9-11, Heb 13:4)**

We believe that the term marriage has only one, legitimate meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, continuous union, as delineated by Scripture. Marriage ceremonies performed at Lakewood Retreat may only be those ceremonies sanctioned by God, joining one man with one woman as that gender was determined at birth. **(Gen 2:24; Matt 19:4; Rom 7:2; 1 Cor 7:8-11; Eph 5:22-25, Col 3:18-19; 1 Tim 3:2, 12)**

- 10) **God is and has supreme authority** over all creation and that the written words of God supersede any contradictory words of any other authority. Earthly authorities are agents of God to keep order and bring justice among men and shall be followed as so far as they do not contradict the laws set forth by God. **(Rom 13:1-7, Heb 13:17, Acts 4:18-20, 5:29, Gal 1:8-9, John 19:10-11, Lev 19:37, Ps 22:28)**