

**MOUNT ZION SANCTUARY ASSEMBLY
CHURCH OF GOD 7th DAY**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Statements of Faith

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Section 1. The fundamental teachings of this General Assembly are based on the King James Version of the Holy Bible (*Old and New Testaments*). The purpose in stating these basic beliefs is to establish a doctrinal foundation for those choosing to be members, and also organizations wishing to affiliate with the General Assembly. These statements of basic beliefs represent the core faith from a biblical and historical perspective.

At the center of our Christian faith and practice stands the belief that God has spoken to the world in the person and work of Jesus Christ, which is accurately and authoritatively revealed in the words of God. The Bible is the inspired, inerrant and sufficient word of God, and is thus the ultimate authority for life, faith and morals.

Members have the opportunity to engage the ministerial fraternity with theological disagreement. However, membership carries with it the implicit understanding that the General Assembly Board shall function as the interpretive authority on biblical meaning and application for the purpose of doctrine, practice, policy and discipline.

Section 2. The statements of faith are as follows:

1. We believe in the inspiration of the Holy Bible, which is comprised of the 66 books of the Kings James version of Bible (*Old & New Testaments*). The Bible both the Old and New Testament is the inspired Word of God; and is complete and infallible, and expresses God's will to mankind (Deuteronomy 8:3; Luke; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; II Timothy 3:16; I Corinthians 2:13; II Peter 1:21).
2. We believe in the Ten Commandments (*Exodus 20:1-17*). Members should congregate for worship on the Sabbath (*Saturday*) as the main day of worship. The Seventh Day of the week is the Sabbath of the Lord, and it is Holy to be observed from even to even (*from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset*) (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Acts 13:42-44, 18:4; Matthew 28:1; Hebrews 4:4-11; Mark 1:32).
3. We believe in the Eternal God, who has revealed Himself as One God the Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ and the functioning of the Holy Spirit as a guiding and powerful element in our lives. They are distinguishable (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2; John 14:26).
4. Jesus of Nazareth is our Messiah and Savior, He is the only begotten Son of God; born of the virgin Mary, conceived of the Holy Ghost; with God the Father before the world began (Matthew 1:20-21; John 3:16, 17:5). Jesus is our High Priest and Mediator before the throne of God (I Timothy 2:5; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:14-18; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Phil. 2:6; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9).
5. We believe worship is given solely for God's glory and honor. Our response to God in worship will flow out of our sincere relationship with God (Deuteronomy 5:6-10; John 12:3-8; Romans 1:20-23, 12:1-8).

6. We believe in the creation, test, and fall of man as recorded in Genesis, his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness on his own (Romans 5:12, 18). Man was created perfect, but through disobedience fell, bringing imperfection, death and God's wrath upon mankind (Genesis 3; I Corinthians 15:21-22).
7. We believe that Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross as a sacrifice for our sin: being crucified in the midst of the week (*the fourth day, Wednesday*), remaining in the tomb exactly 3 days and 3 nights, and rising from the dead in the end of the Sabbath (*Saturday*) (Matthew 12:40; Daniel 9:27; Matthew 28:1-6) and personally appeared to His disciples (I Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 4:25).
8. We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation, and personal, literal, and bodily coming again the second time for His Church (John 14:2-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18), and establishing everlasting kingdom here on earth.
9. We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and complete work of Jesus on the cross by which we obtain total forgiveness of sin (Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12, 22; Romans 5:11), and thereafter abide in the entirety of the 10 commandments and works of faith (Revelation 12:17; 14:12).
10. We believe in conversion in order to be saved (Acts 3:19) and that complete immersion of water baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Act 2:38; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 19:1-6).
11. We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as a real experience, at or subsequent to salvation, empowering believers as witnesses of Christ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 8:14-17, 10:44-46).
12. We believe that sanctification and holiness is commanded for the people of God (Acts 20:32; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16).
13. We believe that there is power in the prayer of the righteous (James 5:16; John 14:13-14) and that the prayer of faith and anointing with oil will heal the sick (James 5:14-15).
14. We believe that the laying on of hands is to be practiced (*ordinations*) (Acts 8:17, 6:6).
15. We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be observed annually at the beginning of the 14th day of Nisan (*Hebrew month*), Jesus being our example (Luke 22:7-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26, 13:4-5). Communion in Lord's Supper is open only to those who have accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Savior (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:34-36; 19:1-6; I Corinthians 11:17-28).
16. We believe God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (*including the authorities themselves*) are answerable to God (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

17. We believe that God has commanded that marriage involves the union of one man (*born male*) and one woman (*born female*) in permanent sacred fidelity. Though various cultures and customs have evolving definitions of marriage, it is God alone who has ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:1-9; Mark 10:1-12). Furthermore, sexual intimacy is only properly exercised and pursued within the confines of this marital relationship.
18. Jesus condemned divorce and remarriage as being the sin of adultery. We believe that a man is permitted to have only one living wife, and the woman only one living husband (Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2-3; I Timothy 3:2).
19. We believe that sexual immorality, defined as any sexual activity outside of the boundaries of the sacred marital relationship between one man (*born male*) and one woman (*born female*), is clearly and expressly prohibited by the Lord (Matthew 15:19; I Corinthians 6:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4). As a consequence, we believe that any and all forms of sexual immorality including, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or even lustful intent toward such, are regarded as sinful and ultimately unsatisfying. Moreover, the General Assembly also regards as sinful and unacceptable the intent or desire to surgically alter one's biological sex to a different sex. Since the body is a creation of God, the General Assembly holds sexual identity to be biologically determined, and associated gender norms are to be observed as appropriate to biblical standards. Disagreement with one's biological sex only leads to spiritual confusion and emotional chaos (Genesis 1:27; Romans 1:26-32; I Corinthians 6:9-11). In order to preserve the function and integrity of General Assembly as the body of Christ, and to provide a biblical example to the members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the General Assembly in any capacity or united to the General Assembly in membership should abide by and agree to this understanding and conduct themselves accordingly.
20. Though sinful sexual expression is egregious (*as is all sin*), the gospel provides redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7). Furthermore, there is a difference between temptation and un-repentant sin. Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are, yet He never sinned. Members, employees, volunteers and attendees of the General Assembly wrestling with all manner of sexual temptation will find an organization ready to point them to Jesus and join with them to fight for their obedience to Christ. Jesus called the weary and heavy-laden to Himself. As an organization desiring to follow Christ fully, the General Assembly will be a safe place for men and women fighting sexual temptations of all kinds. For those fighting temptation and repenting of sin, the General Assembly will provide love, care and direction (Matthew 11:28-30; I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 2:17-18; Hebrews 4:14-16). The General Assembly's principle on marriage and sexuality does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate, as we fully believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity, regardless of his or her lifestyle. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are

to be repudiated as sinful and are not in with accordance the Scriptures nor the doctrines of the General Assembly.

21. We believe human life and children are gifts from God (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1; Luke 1:44).
22. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of the wealth entrusted to him, should give cheerfully to the support of their Local Assembly in tithes and offerings for the relief of those in need and the spread of the Gospel (Malachi 3:10; Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; I Timothy 5:17-18; I John 3:17). Where support is needed by the local community, the Local Assembly led by its Pastor should determine how to support requests and other initiatives.
23. We believe that sin is the transgression of the Law (John 3:4) and justification from sin is through Christ Jesus alone (I Corinthians 6:11; Romans 4:25; 5:16-18).
24. We believe that a Christian should dress modest and should refrain from all worldliness (I Timothy 29; I Corinthians 11:7, 14-15; I John 2:15-16).
25. We believe that all carnal warfare and the participation therein are condemned by the Lord (Matthew 5:38-39; I Corinthians 10:4; Exodus 20:13).
26. We believe that the Law of the clean and unclean meats is to be observed (Genesis 7:2-9; Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14; Ezekiel 4:14-15).
27. We believe that the use of wine should be moderated, and intoxication is prohibited. Use of stimulants, tobacco, or any habit forming, or mind-bending drugs are forbidden (I Corinthians 3:16-17; Proverbs 20). Exceptions to the foregoing are: prescription of a medical doctor or nurse practitioner, and coffee.
28. We believe that there is a final re-gathering of the dispersed of Israel back to their land, one that is taking place now (Jeremiah 16:14-15; Amos 9:14-15).
29. We believe that the third angel's message is a present day message, and will continue to the advent of Jesus (Revelation 14:9-11).
30. We believe that the seven last plagues are future and literal (Revelation 16).
31. We believe that Christ will return and fight in the battle of Armageddon. His coming will bring peace to the earth, and He will rule the world from Jerusalem during the 1000 years of restoration (*the Millennium*) (Zechariah 14; Revelation 20:4-6; Micah 4:3-7). The institution of the Kingdom of Heaven is at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ (Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33).
32. We believe that the righteous dead will be resurrected and rewarded at the coming of Jesus (I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 22:12). God's Kingdom will be established on the earth and the saved will dwell therein forever (Matthew 5:5; Proverbs 10:30).

33. We believe that after the 1000-year restoration period, Christ will deliver the Kingdom to God, the Father. It is then that the wicked will be resurrected to final judgment (1 Corinthians 15:22-24; Revelation 20, 21 and 22; John 5:28-29).
34. We believe in eternal life for believers in the new Kingdom here on earth (John 5:24, 3:16), and destruction and separation from God for unbelievers (Mark 9:43-48; II Thessalonians 1:9; Romans 16:23; Revelation 20:10-15).
35. While the Bible clearly requires that the ministers be male and leaders of the God's Church, the Bible clearly shows that sisters have had enormous contribution, impact and support of and in God's Church (Judges 2:16, 4 and 5; Micah 6:4; II Kings 22; Acts 2:17-18; Romans 16: 1-4, 7).