STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons of one substance, power and authority, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The whole universe was created by God from nothing for His own pleasure. He is rightfully sovereign and rules over all creation. He is entirely good and gracious, all-powerful, all knowing and all loving. Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Genesis 1:31; John 1:3.

We believe that man was originally created in the image of God to enjoy fellowship with God and to have responsibility for the earth. God created male and female, and He established marriage as a holy union between a man and a woman for the purposes of love, companionship, blessing, procreation and family. As such, it is a reflection and expression of His life-giving, self-giving and moral nature. Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Mark 10:6-9, Psalm 139:13-16.

We believe that humanity was alienated from God by Adam's sin and it is now man's nature to be disobedient to God. However, man still bears God's image and thus has dignity and worth. Nevertheless, man's sin causes him to be separated from a life-giving relationship with God and utterly lost. Genesis 2:15-17; Romans 3:11; Romans 5:12; Genesis 3.

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and that He is both undiminished deity and genuine humanity in one person forever. John 1:1; Matthew 1:20-21; Philippians 2:7.

We believe that entrance into a state of fellowship with God is secured entirely by God's grace through a person's belief that Jesus Christ bore our sins in His sacrificial death, was bodily resurrected from the dead and was glorified as Lord and Ruler of all creation. This faith and the outworking of it are evidence of God's salvation unto eternal life. John 1:12; I Timothy 2:6; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-10.

We believe Jesus Christ is the head of "one holy catholic* and apostolic Church", the universal body of Christians. His authority is typically and practically expressed through local churches and through families. Parents are responsible to raise their children in the "discipline and instruction of the Lord". 1 Peter 2:4-6; Ephesians 4:11-16; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

We believe the Holy Spirit witnesses to Jesus Christ, convicts men of sin, regenerates them from spiritual death to spiritual life and is responsible for continuing the work of Christ in believers. Christians are thus enabled by His indwelling presence to enjoy God and to grow in Christ-likeness. The chief means and fruit of growth are: intimacy with God through the study and observance of His Word, prayer, worship and the sacraments, active love of fellow Christians and being salt and light to the world. John 16:13-14; John 16:8; Titus 3:5-6; II Peter 1:5-8; John 17:17; Colossians 3:14-17; Matthew 5:13-16.

We believe the 66 books of Holy Scripture as originally given are the complete Word of God, without error, divinely inspired, recorded by men and are the supreme and final authority in faith and life. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; Hebrews 4:12-13.

**the word "catholic" as used in the Nicene Creed (from which this phrase is taken) means "universal"*

STATEMENT ON IDENTITY, SEXUALITY AND GENDER

We believe in the Lordship of Christ over all of life. We believe we are called to be faithful disciples of Christ, pursuing our callings in love and obedience until He comes again to consummate His kingdom. We believe that God's commandments are relevant and necessary to our present culture and that our faith should be visible in concrete models of personal and social behavior. We recognize that sins of a sexual nature often receive great attention, while other sins such as greed, slander, gossip, neglect of the poor, oppressed and marginalized do not. While rapidly changing cultural trends warrant an expanded statement on identity, sexuality and gender, we are concerned with the impact of all parts of our fallen nature.

Therefore, we submit to the following truths:

IDENTITY

- God creates all people as divine image-bearers who have inestimable value and dignity from conception.
- All forms of mistreatment, oppression, cruelty, dehumanization, abuse and slander are an offense against God's sacred image in which all people have been made.
- A Christian's identity is in Jesus Christ alone and is not found in a self-ascribed or cultural identity.

SEXUALITY

- God decreed marriage to be a covenantal relationship between one man and one woman that reflects Christ's relationship with the Church.
- God's will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage. No affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual acts outside of marriage.
- Geneva students, faculty and staff should resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from all same-sex sexual acts or expressions.

GENDER

- God created male and female with the distinct and biological sex of each person immutably determined and manifested at conception by God.