

## **Doctrinal Formulation: Towards Mutual Understanding.**

Our community presumes that the way of Jesus is the best possible way to live. So we embark on a journey to connect all people through Christ, who has committed to us the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

The Scriptures compel each Follower of Christ to “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (1 Timothy 4:16). To that end, the following premises guide our community in our formulation of core theological understanding:

1. The primacy and authority of the Bible for life and doctrine.
2. The truth that salvation is, in the final analysis, the gift of God and by grace alone.
3. The Tradition of the Apostles and the doctrinal guidance of the Creeds: The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed and The Athanasian Creed (Quicumque Vult).
4. The two Gospel Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion as instituted by Christ for regular use in the Church.
5. The use of liturgy which is faithful to scripture and embodies the experience of the Church in worship over the centuries (Acts 2:42).
6. The priesthood of all believers as missional, worshiping and praying society (2 Peter 2:5).
7. The threefold ministry of bishop, presbyter (priest) and deacon, as that ministry which God has led the Church to adopt from Apostolic times.
8. The recognition that the visible unity of the Church on earth is God's will (John 17:15-23).

We embrace these elementary assumptions in faithfulness to the Apostolicity & Catholicity of the church: Fully Sacramental (Apostolic) fully Evangelical (Reformed) and fully Charismatic. These principles guide our community in the formulation of our theology and practice (1 Peter 3:15).

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