Tenets of Faith

**Holy Bible**

Only the Holy Bible is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (2Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20‐21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25‐26).

**Trinity**

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co‐equal and co‐eternal (I John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16‐17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7‐11).

**God the Father**

God the Father is an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of man, and He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

**God the Son**

The Son, through whom all things were created and who holds all things together, is the image of the invisible God. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus took on human nature to redeem this fallen world. He revealed the fullness of God through His obedient and sinless life. Through word and deed Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, and healing to the sick. Christ triumphed over sin through His death and resurrection and was exalted as Lord of creation and the church. The Savior of the world invites all to be reconciled to God, offering peace to those far and near, and calling them to follow Him in the way of the cross. Until the Lord Jesus returns in glory, He intercedes for believers, acts as their advocate, and calls them to be His witness.

**God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is a divine person (John 14:15–18), sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer (John 16:13; Acts 1:8), and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:7–11).

**Redemption and Salvation**

Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen.1:26-­‐31, 3:1-­‐7; Romans 5:12-­‐21). We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-­‐9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-­‐10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

**The Church Body**

The Church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church (Ephesians 1:22–23), which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19–20). The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper (Acts 2:41–47).

**Fellowship and Accountability**

The church is a covenant community in which the members are mutually accountable in matters of faith and life. They love, care, and pray for each other, share each other’s joy and burdens, and admonish and correct one another in love. They share material resources as there is need. Sanger Faith Community Church follows the New Testament example by seeking the counsel of the wider church on matters that affect its common witness and mission. Although Sanger Faith Community Church is non-denominational it works with other Churches and their Congregations in a spirit of love, mutual submission, and interdependence.

The New Testament guides the practice of redemptive church discipline. The church is responsible to correct members who continue to blatantly sin. Sanger Faith Community Church is committed to forgive and restore those who repent but formally exclude those who disregard discipline.

**Gifts for Ministry**

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible’s lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12 : 4-­‐8; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:5-­‐16, 4:14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-­‐31, 14:1-­‐40; 1 Peter 4:10).

Leaders are to model Christ in their personal, family, and church life. The church is to discern leaders prayerfully and to affirm, support, and correct them in a spirit of love.

**Baptism**

Baptism by immersion in water is a public sign a person has repented of sins, received forgiveness, sins died with Christ, been raised to newness of life, and received the Holy Spirit. Baptism is made in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Marriage**

God created marriage. It is a covenant made between a man and a woman making them one (Gen 2: 22, 24; Matt 19: 5-­‐6).

**Healing**

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the Cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit (Psalm 103:2-­‐3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-­‐17; Mark 16:17-­‐18; Acts 8:6-­‐7; James 5:14-­‐16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29).

**Second Coming**

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-­‐64; Acts 1:9-­‐11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-­‐17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-­‐8; Revelation 1:7).