

## Statement of Faith and Secondary Doctrines

This statement of faith contains the essential biblical doctrines that guide the ministry of Evangel Classical Christian School (ECCS) and Evangel Mother's Day Out & Preschool (MDO). Evangel Mother's Day Out & Preschool is a ministry of Evangel Presbyterian Church (EPC), with whose "Statement on Matters of Faith, Belief, Conduct, and Use of Facilities" we agree and operate in accordance. The aforementioned EPC document amplifies Item C in the MDO Statement of Faith below. The primary doctrines below define the perspective from which all classes will be taught and are one of the tools that will be used in the hiring of faculty and administration. Issues not mentioned in this statement of faith or specifically addressed in the EPC "Statement on Matters of Faith, Belief, Conduct, and Use of Facilities" are to be considered secondary doctrines and will not be emphasized in the teaching of the school. These secondary doctrine issues are important, and they may arise upon occasion within the curriculum; Evangel Mother's Day Out & Preschool recognizes that Christians are at liberty to reach different conclusions regarding them. The school's recognition that Christians disagree on these topics, however, should not be interpreted to mean that the school believes that there is no right answer to questions about these issues. With this caveat in mind and so that doctrinal disputes do not cause irreparable division within the school, classroom discussion of secondary doctrines will clearly delineate the Reformed view of the Presbyterian Church of America while encouraging students to respectfully investigate and articulate alternate views held by other Christian traditions. ECCS teachers will model respectful dialogue and encourage students to follow the example of the Bereans who ". . . *received the word with great eagerness, and examined the Scriptures daily to see whether if what Paul said was true.*" (Acts 17:11, NIV). Students will also be encouraged to follow up any questions they have regarding classroom discussion with their parents and pastor.

### A. Sovereignty of God

God's sovereignty controls all that occurs in His world and in His church. His plans and purposes always prevail; nothing can thwart them.

### B. Inerrancy of Scripture

God's written Word, the Bible, is free from error and is completely trustworthy. It is His truth and is the final authority in all matter.

### C. God's Creation of the World, Mankind, and Marriage

The Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) alone has existed from eternity past and in His wisdom decided to create the universe from nothing. God spoke and it came into existence. Humanity did not evolve from lower life forms but was created by God. Mankind was created with dignity in that he was made in God's image and was created in humility; our purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. See also EPC "Statement on Matters of Faith, Belief, Conduct, and Use of Facilities" Item B: "Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life."

God purposefully created both male and female, and He created each gender to be distinct from the other, though equal in their reflection of His image. Rejection of one's original anatomical sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. God established holy marriage between one man and one woman to reflect the relationship of Christ with His Church and to be the basic unit of human society. We believe that the word "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive union, as determined in the Scriptures. For this reason, it is only in marriage between one man and one woman that God sanctions sexual relationships. "Statement on Matters of Faith, Belief, Conduct, and Use of Facilities" Item C: "Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality."

#### **D. Fall of Mankind**

All mankind participated in Adam's fall from his original sinless state and are thus totally depraved and lost in sin.

#### **E. Jesus, Savior of Sinners**

Jesus Christ is the unique Son of God and the only Savior of the world. Fully God and fully man, He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. He alone secured our salvation by His substitutionary atonement on the cross and by His righteous life imputed to us. Jesus rose bodily from the dead, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will come again in power and glory.

#### **F. Justification by Faith Alone**

Sinners are justified by faith alone and do not deserve nor can they earn, salvation. Justification is granted only by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

#### **G. Empowering Holy Spirit**

Every true believer in Jesus Christ is indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit, who enables believers to live a godly life and to perform good works.

#### **H. Body of Christ**

All believers are spiritually united in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and every believer is a member of the body of Christ.

#### **I. Final Judgment and Resurrection**

At the second coming of Christ, the saved and the lost will be bodily resurrected and judged. The saved will be resurrected to eternal life, and the lost will be resurrected to eternal condemnation.