



Micro-Church Tool 11

STATEMENT OF FAITH WORKSHEET

The Statement of Faith acts as the guiding principles that dictate behavior and actions of the micro-church and its mission. These truths are adopted by all members as the guiding beliefs of the micro-church. All actions undertaken by the church are filtered through these Bible-based truths.

Establishing these beliefs as early in the process as possible will help to unify the understanding of micro-church members and provide a solid foundation on which they can stand in faith.

ACCEPTING BY FAITH

There are certain beliefs that need to be accepted by faith. These are the foundational concepts upon which Christianity is built. Unfortunately, doctrines, religion, and religious traditions have placed a cloud over many of these truths. Foundational truths as well as other biblical truths need to be fully supported by the Word of God.

The foundational beliefs that are presented below are a good starting point for the belief defining process that is about to be undertaken. Use the scriptures cited as a starting point for verification of these beliefs. For each belief, list the truths discovered in the scriptures that support the belief. Make sure that these beliefs can be accepted as absolute truth by all members of the micro-church.

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

X	BELIEF	SCRIPTURES	TRUTHS
	God is the only living God	1 Timothy 2:5 Isaiah 44:6 1 Corinthians 8:6 Revelation 1:8	•
	God exists as the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	1 John 5:7 Acts 17:29 Romans 1:20 Colossians 2:9 Matthew 28:19 1 Timothy 3:16	•
	God created the heavens and the earth	Genesis 1:1-31 John 1:3 Revelation 4:11 Hebrews 11:3	•
	God created us for His glory and to carry out His work here on earth	Revelation 4:11 Ephesians 2:10 1 Corinthians 6:20 Isaiah 43:7	•

	Christ was born of the Virgin Mary and became flesh	Isaiah 7:14 Matthew 1:23 John 1:14 1 Timothy 3:16 John 1:1	•
	Christ lived a sinless life	2 Corinthians 5:21 Hebrews 4:15 1 Peter 2:22	•
	Man has a sin nature	Romans 5:12 Romans 3:23 Galatians 5:17 Romans 6:23	•
	Our sins (past, present, and future) were borne on the cross by Christ	1 John 2:2 Hebrew 9:11-12 Hebrews 9: 25-28 2 Corinthians 5:19 Hebrew 10:10-12, 14	•
	Christ was resurrected from the dead	1 John 1:8 Romans 3:10-23 Hebrews 10:29 John 20:1	•
	The Bible is the true and sufficient Word of God	1 Timothy 3:16 John 17:17 John 1:14 Psalms 119:89	•
	Being born again through Christ is the only way to be saved and have eternal life	John 14:6 Acts 4:12 1 John 5:20 John 3:16 John 3:3	•
	The Holy Spirit is given to all who believe in Christ	John 14:26 1 Corinthians 6:19 Acts 1:8 1 John 3:24	•
	Salvation comes from God's grace through faith	Ephesians 2:8 Acts 2:38 Romans 11:6 Titus 2:11	•
	God granted us authority over the earth	Matthew 28:18 Genesis 1:26 Matthew 10:1 Mark 11:22-24 Luke 10:19	

COMMON MISBELIEFS

Another way to vet beliefs is to examine areas where common misbeliefs have been established. For each misbelief, there is generally an opposite belief that can be established. Use this list to help church members to identify other deep-seated beliefs that must be abandoned.

MISBELIEF	SCRIPTURES	TRUTHS
God's sovereignty controls every aspect of Christian life		
Christians are still subject to Old Testament legalism		
God is the cause of bad things that happen to Christians		
Christians have to do works to earn their Salvation		
Money is the root of all evil		

EXISTING MEMBER BELIEFS

The above lists of beliefs should help to reveal existing beliefs that members have that will need to be fully vetted. Add these beliefs that are uncovered to the list below. As each of these beliefs are vetted, mark them off and add those that can be fully supported to the Statement of Faith.

X	BELIEF	SCRIPTURES	FINDINGS

VETTING PROCESS SUGGESTIONS

The following are a few suggestions to help the micro-church members process a belief for inclusion in the Statement of Faith:

- Fully identify each belief before starting the vetting process.
- Perform a search for the key words that identify the belief using a concordance or other tools.
- Identify related Bible verses that can be examined to arrive at conclusions concerning the belief.
- Perform an internet search to identify approaches that other have taken. (Be cautious of what is taken as fact from the internet)
- Seek spiritual guidance through the Holy Spirit through prayer and Bible study.
- Examine the Hebrew and Greek meaning of key words that will form the belief.

BELIEF SUBJECTS

The subjects used for the Statement of Faith will vary from micro-church to micro-church. Each church is unique and their focus will be reflected in the statement. Use the following categories to help jumpstart the creative process. Insert additional subjects that come to mind while proceeding through this process.

	God		Creation		Spiritual Maturity
	Jesus		Resurrection		Humility
	Holy Spirit		Second Coming		Helping Others
	Trinity		New Covenant		Mission
	Body of Christ		Holy Communion		Prayer
	Church		Baptism		Discipleship
	Bible		Sovereignty		Attitude
	Faith		Stewardship		Legalism
	Grace		Body		Authority
	Salvation		Soul		Sin
	Hope		Spirit		Satan

Use the Belief Vetting Sheet below for each belief that is under consideration to be included in the Statement of Faith. Archive all of the vetting sheets for future use as the church expands the Statement of Faith.

BELIEF VETTING SHEET					
DATE		TITLE			
BELIEF STATEMENT					
REFERENCE		SCRIPTURE			
SUBSTANTIATED FACTS					
Actions				Yes	No
Can the belief be added to the Statement of Faith?					
Will further vetting be required?					

Writing the Statement

Start the writing process by injecting God into the proceedings through prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of the micro-church as this important document is created. Keep the conversation open throughout the process for best results.

Many churches start with a preamble that describes the commitment to uphold the Statement of Faith such as: “We affirm that these truths come from God and are documented in the Bible. These beliefs are the foundation of our church and mission. We commit to upholding them in all areas of our lives.”

Each belief should be documented using the scriptures that established them. List the main supporting verses after each belief that is included in the statement. Keep a journal with notes on how each truth was established and all of the background information and supporting scriptures. Document the thought process so there is no doubt as to how the belief was arrived. The journal should also include any changes that are made to the statement over time.

Basic writing tips for the Statement of Faith include:

- Be clear
- Be concise
- Carefully select each word
- Make it understandable to everyone

Each belief in the Statement of Faith typically starts with the words “We believe”. The key is keeping it simple and easy to understand. Defining as many truths or beliefs as possible will help church members to have a clear understanding on which they can stand confidently in Christ.

A detailed evaluation of a belief should still be undertaken if the belief is being adopted from another source. The church needs to be able to make the belief its own. Verifying each truth is an important part of the process.

The following are beliefs that others have used in their Statement of Faith to use as examples. Select those beliefs that may be useful for vetting and adding to your statement.

X	BELIEF
	We believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins.
	We believe that Jesus rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will one day return.
	We believe that there is only one true God who exists as three divine persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
	We believe that the Bible is the true, authentic, and sufficient Word of God.
	We believe that God is the creator and sustainer of all things.
	We believe that all things on earth exist for the glory of God.
	We believe that God has provided everything we have and that we are stewards of His resources.
	We believe that salvation is a free gift from God.
	We believe that the Holy Spirit lives in all Christians who have accepted salvation through Christ.
	We believe that everyone has sinned and come short of the glory of God.
	We believe that by God’s grace our sins past, present and future have been forgiven.
	We believe that God has given all Christians the power to heal the sick.
	We believe the purpose of our church is to disciple through our mission of serving the less fortunate.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

NO.	TITLE	BELIEF	SCRIPTURES	DATE ADDED
1	The Bible	We believe that the Bible is the true, authentic, and sufficient Word of God		
2		We believe		
3		We believe		
4		We believe		
5		We believe		
6		We believe		
7		We believe		
8		We believe		
9		We believe		
10		We believe		
11		We believe		
12		We believe		
13		We believe		

Monitoring the Statement

A periodic review of the Statement of Faith will be required once the initial beliefs are established. New understandings will be received as the micro-church matures. Adding new beliefs or modifying existing beliefs is an ongoing practice that is a part of the growth process.

Revisiting the core beliefs on a regular basis will not only help to refine the system but will reinforce the beliefs for each member. The final result is a dynamic document that will help to guide the micro-church through any roadblocks that are put before it.