

## VMA Trust – Statement of Faith

The following Statement of Faith is an affirmation of orthodox Arminian Evangelical belief. Therefore, it defines and underpins what it means to be a member of VMA

### What we Believe About...

#### God:

We believe in the one true, holy and living God, Eternal Spirit, who is Creator, Sovereign and Preserver of all things visible and invisible. He is infinite in power, wisdom, justice, goodness and love, and rules with gracious regard for the well-being and salvation of all people, to the glory of his name. We believe the one God reveals himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, distinct but inseparable, eternally one in essence and power.

#### Jesus Christ:

We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly human, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, from whence he shall return. He is eternal Saviour and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all people will be judged.

#### Holy Spirit:

We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from and is one in being with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; pours the love of God into human hearts; leads people through faithful response to the gospel into the fellowship of the Church; comforts, sustains, and empowers the faithful and guides them into all the truth.

#### The Scriptures:

We believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, reveal the Word of God. These Scriptures reveal all things necessary for salvation. Through the Holy Spirit the Scriptures are to be received as the supreme rule and guide for faith and practice. Whatever is not revealed in, or established by, the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation.

#### The Church:

We believe the Church of Jesus Christ is the community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. We believe it is one, holy, apostolic and catholic. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by those divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the Church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers and the redemption of the world.

### **The Sacraments:**

We believe the Sacraments of the Gospel, ordained by Christ, are symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession and of God's love toward us. They are means of grace by which God works invisibly in us, quickening, strengthening and confirming our faith in him. Two Sacraments are ordained by Jesus Christ our Lord, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### **Sin and Reconciliation Through Christ:**

We believe humanity is fallen from righteousness and, apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is destitute of holiness and inclined to evil. Except a person repents of their sin and is born again by The Holy Spirit, they cannot see the Kingdom of God. We believe God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. The offering Christ freely made on the cross is the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, available to all people, redeeming humanity from all sin, so that no other satisfaction is required. By grace through faith all who repent and place their trust in Christ Jesus receive salvation and assurance as God's gift.

### **Sanctification and Christian Perfection:**

We believe sanctification is the work of God's grace through the Word and the Spirit, by which those who have been born again are cleansed from sin in their thoughts, words and actions. They are thus enabled to live in accordance with God's will, to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, and to strive for holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Entire sanctification is a state of perfect love, righteousness and true holiness which every regenerate believer may obtain by being delivered from the power of sin, by loving God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, and by loving one's neighbour as one's self. Through faith in Jesus Christ this gracious gift may be received in this life both gradually and instantaneously, and should be sought earnestly by every child of God.

### **Relationships:**

We believe all people are called to live in right-relationships with God and with other people as a sign of redemption, reconciliation and holiness. Therefore, we believe that Marriage Is a Covenant that was established by God who created us male and female for one another. It symbolizes the union between Christ and his Church. Sexual relationships are only affirmed within the covenant of monogamous heterosexual marriage.

### **The Judgment and the Future Life:**

We believe all people stand under the righteous judgment of Jesus Christ, both now and in the last day. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and look for the life of the world to come.