**Mission of Love Doctrinal Statement 2010**

-We believe in the Lord God Almighty, the ever existent, all knowing, all powerful, omnipresent Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.  These Three are distinct yet one in essence and being. (Genesis 1:26;  Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

-**God** the Father is supreme, exalted above all and ruling over all things forever.  (Romans 16:27; 11:33; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Matthew 6:6-13; John 6:44-46; Revelations  3:21)

-**Jesus Christ** is the ever-existent Creator and Sustainer of all things.  though He is God, He humbled Himself and came to earth as a man to accomplish the Father's will by redeeming men and women from the penalty of sin.  He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, proclaimed the only way of salvation, died for our sins on the cross, was bodily resurrected from the dead on the third day, was taken up into heaven from where He shall return in glory to claim His Church at the Father's command. (John 1:14; 3:16; Matthew 4; Luke 4; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

- **The Holy Spirit** is our ever present Comforter, Teacher, Guide, and Strength.  He assures us of our salvation, reveals God's truths and purpose for our lives, intercedes for us, and empowers us that we may fulfill the Father's purpose for each of our lives.  (John 14:26; John 16:7-8; John 16:13-15; Romans 8:2; Romans 8:26; Romans 8:11; Romans 15:16-19;  Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:11)

- We believe that the sixty-six books of the **Bible** are God's complete, perfect, inerrant, and infallible revelation to man, divinely preserved and given to us by Him that we may both know Him and how to please Him.  The Bible is absolute truth and our final authority in all matters of life and godliness.  We acknowledge that God expects every Christian to diligently hear, read, study, memorize, and meditate on His Word that we may live our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

- God created **man** a special creation, made in His image, perfect and sinless, male and female. He placed them in the Garden of Eden to tend and rule over all creation.  Man rebelled and sinned against God by believing the lie of Satan and disobeying God's commandment.  All men and women are thus born in **sin** and **separated** from God, totally and completely incapable of knowing and pleasing Him apart from the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.  It is only by a God’s grace that we can accept Jesus Christ as the subsitutionary sacrifice for our sins and by seeking the forgiveness of God by turning away from our sins that we may know and please Him. (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3:15, Romans 5:12-15)

-We believe that salvation is a gift of **grace** from God, received through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.  (Romans 6:23; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12)

-We believe that every person who truly is saved is **eternally secure** in the Lord Jesus Christ and that true conversion will be evidenced by the bearing of fruit.  (John 10:28-30; Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 10:10 and 10:14, Matthew 7:15-23)

-We believe that each believer has **direct access to God** through the Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible, God's Word.  (1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 10:19-26)

-We believe in **baptism** after salvation in obedience to the command of Christ (Romans 6:3-10; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

-We believe in living the **obedient Christian life**.  God is the source of our life and blessings and He demands we exercise faithful stewardship over all He has given us.  We bring glory to Him and mature in our faith by practicing the disciplines revealed in His Word. (James 1:19-27)

-The **Christian Disciplines** are the lifelong, continual habits that identify us as disciples.  There is no other way to please God and to know His joy than through the disciplines of prayer, Bible study, witnessing, and fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters in worship and study. (Romans 1:11,12; John 17:22,23; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 5:16; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 4:12)

- God commands us to care for **orphans** and **widows** in their distress and sees it as pure and genuine religion in His sight.  (James 1:27)

- The **church** consists of local bodies of believers with the Lord Jesus Christ as the head.  (Ephesians 1:22-23)

-We believe in **listening to and obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit**.  The Holy Spirit communicates to us as we pray, through meditating on the Word, through circumstances in our daily lives, and through other people. (John 14:26)

- We believe that every Christian is called to **serve**.  God made each and every Christian to fulfill an individual, particular, unique ministry.  We bring glory to Him by accomplishing that purpose. (1 Corinthians 12:5-11)

- We believe in **financial stewardship**.  All that we have is a gift from God and we are responsible to Him for all that He has entrusted to us.  We should contribute cheerfully, regularly, and liberally of all that He has given us for the advancement of His kingdom on earth. (James 1:17; 2 Corinthians 9:7-11)

- We believe in **Missions**.  God directed that we take the Gospel to all the world.  (Matthew 8:18-20)

- God will bring the world to an end as revealed in His Word at His set time.  **Jesus Christ will** fulfill his promise and **return** personally and visibly to the earth in glory.  At that time, the dead will be raised, and He will judge all men in righteousness.  Each person will receive their rewards according to scripture.  The righteous will dwell forever in **Heaven** with the Lord in resurrected and glorified bodies based solely on their faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.  The unrighteous will be consigned to **Hell,** the place of everlasting punishment, for refusing the provision of God for their sins.(Revelations 19; Revelations 20:14; John 3:15-16)