

## Watered Gardens Statements of Course.

### **Statement of Faith**

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, ultimate authoritative Word of God.
- We believe there is one God, eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is Deity, that He was born of a virgin, was sinless during His life on earth, that we are redeemed by His atoning death through His shed blood, that He bodily resurrected and ascended into heaven, and that He will come again in power and great glory.
- We believe that individuals are saved through the exercise of a singular, exclusive faith in the risen Lord, at which time they are regenerated by the Holy Spirit who sanctifies and sets them apart from evil in the world.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whom Christ indwells each believer, enabling him or her to live a godly life of obedience as he or she reaches for maturity.
- We believe the Holy Spirit unites all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and that together they form one body, the church.

### **Statement of Biblical Sexuality**

The organization of Watered Gardens embraces the historic orthodox Christian understanding of Scripture and its teachings with regard to human sexuality, marriage, and the family. Accordingly, we affirm sexuality is a gift from God and basic to human identity and that sexual intimacy is to take place within the context of a marriage covenant between a naturally born man and a naturally born woman in which they vow and commit, with God's help, to build a faithful relationship that will last for a lifetime (Genesis 2:18, 21-24; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:4-9). The sexual union between a husband and wife has been designed by God to bring them together as "one flesh," creating the context within which to build a family and to serve as a symbol of the holy relationship between Jesus Christ and his Church (Genesis 2:18-24, Ephesians 5:31-32). Jesus affirms the marital covenant as existing between a naturally born man and a naturally born woman (Matthew 19:4-9). By God's design, marriage also serves as the cornerstone for reproduction and the subsequent parenting of children to become responsible members of society. The New Testament teaches that followers of Jesus are to remain celibate outside the covenant of marriage. A person who engages in sexual unions outside the bond of marriage sins against his or her own body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). The Bible expressly forbids such acts as adultery, homosexual acts, fornication, rape, incest, prostitution, and bestiality. (See, e.g., Exodus 20:14; Acts 15:20; Romans 1:24-28; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Galatians 5:19; 1 Timothy 1:10.) While affirming these teachings on the divine purpose of marriage and human sexuality, Watered Gardens also affirms the biblical truth that all human beings have value, dignity, and eternal worth because they are created by God and bear His image. Watered Gardens regards the practice of sexual activity outside the bounds of a monogamous heterosexual marriage as a departure from biblical teaching and Christian virtue. While Watered Gardens does not regard the practice of sexual sin as a worse evil than other sin, it acknowledges the unique and devastating effects of sexual sin, which compromises our personhood and bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit.

### **Statement of Philosophy**

Our commitment to serve the Church in its mission to help the poor is based in the Biblical mandate to care for those in need. We believe the means and methodology matter. James Madison said, "Charity is no part of the legislative duty of government." True charity is a product of individual compassion and is never the byproduct or outcome of legislation. Watered Gardens is a privately funded mission that will continue to abstain from any government funding. We believe that government funded help directly conflicts with the principle of subsidiarity, and we always seek first to direct people to local, private sources of help before referring them to government funded sources.

The inherent value of a person is most realized through the exercise of skill for creative production. We believe handouts to the poor diminish a person's conception of his worth and potential. Therefore, we endeavor to employ a person's effort in exchange for what he or she needs whenever possible.

*I am in agreement with these statements and will adhere to the practice indicated when in service to Watered Gardens.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_