

## **FAITH STATEMENT**

As a college founded and supported by The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Clinton College affirms and upholds the beliefs and tenets of the Christian faith as practiced by The AME Zion Church. Specifically, as enumerated by the Articles of Religion, as found in the Book of Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Apostles' Creed, we assent to the following:

**The Bible:** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and contains "all things necessary to salvation." We believe that it is authoritative in all matters of faith and morality. (Article V) (2 Tim. 3: 15-17).

**Original Sin:** We believe that sin is the "corruption of the nature of every [person] that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby [humanity] is very far gone from original righteousness, and of [their] own nature(s) inclined to evil, and that continually." (Article VII) (Ps. 51:5)

**The Trinity:** We believe that "there is but one living and true God, ever-lasting, without body or parts, with infinite power, wisdom and goodness; the [Creator] and preserver of all things, visible and invisible, and in the unity of this Godhead there are three persons of one substance, power and eternity-the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." (Article I) Further, we believe that "the Son, who is the Word, the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took [human] nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and humanity, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile His Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of humanity. (Article II). We further affirm that "the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is one substance, majesty and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God." (Article IV)

**Redemption:** We believe that "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again His body, with all thing appertaining to the perfection of human nature, wherewith He ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until He shall return to judge all humanity at the last day."(Article III)

**Salvation:** We believe that "we are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by faith, and not our own works or deserving. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort." We further believe that the sacraments of the church are "certain signs of grace and God's good will toward us by which He doth work invisible in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our faith in Him." (Article IX, Article XVI) (Rom. 4:5, Luke 22:19, 20)

**Eschatology:** We believe that Jesus Christ died and was buried and "rose on the third day from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead" at the last day. (Apostles' Creed) (2 Cor. 5:15, John 11:25, 26, Acts 10:42, John 12:48)

**Ecclesiology and Ecumenism:** We believe that the church is the visible expression of the body of Christ in the world and is a universal collection of believers serving and worshiping under the banners of different denominations.