

# COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### PREFACE

From the beginning, the Church has found it helpful to summarize its core beliefs into short and succinct statements such as creeds, hymns, and confessions to proclaim truth, unify community, clarify confusion, and protect teaching.

At Community Covenant Church, we believe God is calling us to participate in His unfolding story of grace, love, and restoration for people and the whole world.

Our Statement of Faith (comprised of our basic beliefs, theological distinctives, and our understanding of the narrative of scripture) embeds everything we do in scriptural context and inspires our community to participate in what God is doing in the world. Together, these statements communicate what we believe as a church and therefore are the foundation for our teaching, preaching, praying, instruction, and counseling.

### BASIC BELIEFS

We hold the following to be the orthodox beliefs of the Christian faith:

The Bible is God's word written by people and guided by God's Spirit; it is authoritative and sufficient.<sup>1</sup>

There is one true God who reveals Himself in a communal relationship displayed as three distinct persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He created all things and everything exists through His power and for His glory.<sup>2</sup>

God created the world good, but humanity rebelled against God and, as a result, is inherently sinful by both birth and action.

This fractured relationship with God continues to perpetuate sin, death, and brokenness in our world.<sup>3</sup>

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and the second person of the Trinity. We affirm:

- He was fully God and fully man.<sup>4</sup>
- His virgin birth.<sup>5</sup>
- His sinless life amidst numerous trials and testing.<sup>6</sup>
- His teachings and miracles demonstrated His love and compassion.<sup>7</sup>
- His establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.<sup>8</sup>
- His sacrificial death for the atonement of sin.<sup>9</sup>
- His bodily resurrection from the dead overcame the power of evil and defeated death.<sup>10</sup>

- His ascension to the right hand of the Father.<sup>11</sup>
- His eventual personal return in power and glory.<sup>12</sup>

The only hope for human beings to be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy is to turn away from their sin and turn to faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.<sup>13</sup>

The Church is the body of Christ on the earth today, proclaiming, through word and action the good news of the arrival of God's Kingdom.<sup>14</sup>

At the end of time, Jesus will return to judge all things with equity to either eternity in heaven or eternity in hell, and he will usher in His New Creation (New Heaven and New Earth) restoring all things to God's original intent. There will be a physical resurrection of the dead and all things will flourish as God intended.<sup>15</sup>

## ***THEOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVES***

While the doctrines expressed in our *Basic Beliefs* are recognized to be universal and primary with the Church, there are several secondary beliefs that we proclaim. Not all Christians hold these beliefs and they often have been debated. Nonetheless, these beliefs are important to us and true to the way we understand the Bible. Full agreement is not required for membership but we will preach, teach, and counsel in accordance with these convictions.

### ***THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT***

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we see exercised in the Scriptures have not ceased with the closing of the New Testament canon. All gifts are available today and are to be eagerly desired and practiced in submission to the Spirit and the Scriptures.<sup>16</sup>

### ***BAPTISM BY IMMERSION***

Baptism is intended for those who have professed faith in Jesus Christ. We baptize by immersion because it is the original meaning of the word and best symbolizes the reality to which baptism points – our death and resurrection with Christ.<sup>17</sup>

### ***THE RELATIONSHIP OF GOD'S GLORY AND MAN'S JOY***

We believe that man's greatest joy is found in living life the way God intended it to be lived and that our enjoyment of Him is the chief means by which He is glorified in the world.<sup>18</sup>

### ***GOD'S KINGDOM COME TO EARTH***

God is establishing His Kingdom on earth through the worship, community, and mission of His Church.

As His disciples, we participate in this by announcing this Kingdom (Gatherings), living out His way of life in community (Groups), and through measurable service to the last, least, and lost (Mission).<sup>19</sup>

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

1. Ps. 19.7-11; 2 Tim. 3.16-17; 2 Peter 1.20-21
2. Deut. 6.4; Isa. 45.5-6; John 17.3; 1 Cor. 8.4-6; 1 Tim. 2.5; Gen. 1.26; Ps. 45.6-7; Ps. 110:1; Matt. 3.13-17; Matt. 28.17-20; 1 Cor. 12.4-6; Ps. 148; Prov. 16.4; Isa. 61.3; Rom. 11.33-36; 1 Cor. 10.31; 2 Cor. 5.15; Eph. 1.3-14
3. Gen. 1-2; 1 Tim. 4.4; Gen. 3.15; Rom. 5.12; Col 1.21
4. Luke 2.52; John 1.1-4; Col. 1.15-20; Heb. 1.1-3
5. Matt. 1.20-23; Luke 1.31,35
6. Heb. 7.26; 1 Peter 2.22
7. Luke 19.41; Acts 2.22; Acts 10.38
8. Matt. 4.1-11
9. John 1.29; 10.1-18; Rom. 5.8; 1 Cor. 15.1-4; 2 Cor. 5.21; Gal. 1.4; 1 Peter 3.18
10. Matt. 28.1-20; Mark 16.1-8; Luke 24.1-53; 1 Cor. 15.4
11. Acts. 1.9-11; Acts. 2.33; Phil. 2.9-11; Heb. 1.3
12. Heb. 9.28; 1 John 3.2; Rev. 1.7
13. Gen. 3, Gen. 6.5; Ps. 51.5; Jer. 17.9; Rom. 3.23; Rom. 5.8; Rom. 12-21; Rom. 7.18; Eph. 2.1-8; John 3.3; Rom 10.13-15
14. Eph. 1.22-23; Acts 1.8; Matt. 28.19-20; 1 Cor. 12-14; James 1.27; Gal. 2.10
15. Rev. 20-21; 1 Peter 3.13
16. Rom. 12.3-8; 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4.1-6
17. Matt. 28.18-20; Acts 2.38; Rom. 6.1-11
18. Ps. 16.11; Ps. 37.4; Matt 13.44; John 15.11; Phil. 3.8; Heb. 11.6
19. Acts 2.42-47; Eph. 1.15-23; Matt. 4.17; Matt. 16.18; Matt. 25.40; Matt. 28.18-20; Col. 1.20