

Affirmation Statements

Harvest Pointe Community Church



Church Covenant:

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Church, exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and encourage one another as occasion may require. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others. We will endeavor to disciple any persons under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example seek the salvation of our family and friends. We will rejoice at each others' happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Statement of Faith

- a. In presenting our beliefs, we keep in mind the following 3 principles:
- 1) In all essential beliefs--we have unity. "There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..." (Eph. 4:4-6)
 - 2) In nonessential beliefs--we have liberty. "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God." (Rom. 14:1,4,12,22)
 - 3) In all our beliefs--we show love. "...If I hold in my hand not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains--but have no love, I amount to nothing at all." (1 Cor. 13:2)
- b. These are the essential beliefs to which Harvest Pointe Community Church holds:
- 1) **The Bible:** We believe that the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the infallible Word of God, verbally inspired by God, and is without error in the original manuscripts. We believe that the Bible is the supreme and final authority in testing all claims about what is true and what is right, and also in testing all matters of saving knowledge, faith and Christian conduct. In matters not addressed by the Bible, what is true and right is to be assessed by criteria consistent with the teaching of Scripture.
Psalm 19:7; Isaiah 40:8; Mark 13:31; John 20:31; Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - 2) **God:** We believe there is one, and only one living and true God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections and being infinite in them all. To Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence, trust, and obedience. We believe that God eternally exists in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Though He is Triune, we believe God is without division of nature, essence, or being; and that each Person of the Godhead possesses, and is equal in, every divine perfection. We believe the Persons of the Triune God execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of all things, and that God alone, in His Triune Person, possesses exhaustive knowledge and so purposes all things according to the counsel of His own, will.
Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:5-6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 145:3; John 1:3; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 10:31; Colossians 1:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:17
 - 3) **God the Father:** We believe in God the Father, an infinite Personal Spirit, who infallibly foreknows all things, who concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, hears and answers prayer, and who saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 23:9; Luke 10:21-22; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6

- 4) **God the Son:** We believe in Jesus Christ, the preexistent and begotten Son of God, being Himself fully God and fully man. We believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary who remained a virgin until after the birth of Christ. We believe in His sinless life, miracles, and teachings; His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divinely appointed and only Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King of the Church; and the Sovereign of all creation.

Isaiah 53:10-12; Matthew 1:18-25; 20:28; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1, 14, 18; 10:30, 17:3; 20:28, 30-31; Acts 1:9-11; 20:28; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; 8:34; 9:5; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 1:4; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3; 7:25; 9:28; 1 Timothy 2:5; 3:16; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 2:21-23; Revelation 12:10

- 5) **Holy Spirit:** We believe in God the Holy Spirit, eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son. We believe the Holy Spirit is a Person, Who instead of glorifying Himself, glorifies the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Apart from the gracious working of the Holy Spirit no one could come to faith in Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, that He faithfully preserves all saints until the end for the glory of God alone, and that He perpetually intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Adoption, the Seal of our Salvation, and the Pledge of our inheritance in Christ.

John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:9-14; Romans 8:9, 14-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 1:13-14

- 6) **Providence:** We believe that God, from eternity, ordains all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and all events, yet so as not in any way to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of moral beings.

Isaiah 46:9-11; Psalm 115:3; Proverbs 16:33; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; James 1:13-15

- 7) **The Fall of Man:** We believe that man was created by God in His own image and for His glory, but that man sinned and fell short of the glory of God, thus incurring physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is eternal separation from the favor of God in an everlasting hell. Consequently, we believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature opposed to God and His law, and are sinners by choice, therefore being under God's just condemnation.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:1-7, 19; 6:5, 12; 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9; John 5:24; Romans 3:9-23; 5:12-19; 6:21, 23; 7:13; 8:6-7; 9:22; Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; James 1:14-15; 1 John 3:14; Revelation 21:8

- 8) **Salvation:** We believe salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to everyone who repents of his or her sins and believes in Jesus Christ, who by His own substitutionary and atoning work obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:1-7, 19; 6:5, 12; 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9; John 5:24; Romans 3:9-23; 5:12-19; 6:21, 23; 7:13; 8:6-7; 9:22; Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; James 1:14-15; 1 John 3:14; Revelation 21:8

- 9) **Regeneration:** We believe that regeneration is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit Who gives life to those dead in trespasses and sins, awakening their minds, and renewing their whole nature, so that they practice repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This divine work produces the desire to love and practice holiness according to the word of God. We believe regeneration is the work of God's free and special grace alone, yielding in the regenerate an instantaneous and eternal paramount allegiance to Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we believe that the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration is not the result of water baptism or any outward ritual; but that He indwells every person who trusts in Christ, empowering every Christian to make progress in overcoming sin and in becoming more like Jesus Christ in thought, deed, and love for God. We believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to those who have been converted for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.

Ezekiel 36:25-26; John 1:13; 3:3, 5-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:5; 1 John 5:1

- 10) **Repentance and Faith:** We believe that salvation is conditioned upon genuine repentance and faith, which follow upon God's gracious drawing of sinners through the gospel. Repentance occurs when a person, being made sensible by the Holy Spirit of the evil of sin, is deeply convinced of guilt, danger, helplessness, and the way of salvation by Christ, forsakes sin, and believes Jesus Christ to be their only hope in life and in death.

Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 3:8-10; Mark 1:15; John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:40, 44, 65; Acts 2:37-38; 11:18; 13:38-39; 17:30; 20:21; Romans 2:4-5; 3:21-28; 4:1-5; 4:17-25; 8:1; 10:3-4, 14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 7:10-11 Philippians 1:29; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 3:9; Hebrews 11:6; James 2:14-26

- 11) **Justification:** We believe justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not by

anything done by them, but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receive His righteousness by grace alone through faith alone.

John 1:16; Acts 10:43; 13:39; Romans 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 5:1-21; 8:1; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:7-9; Titus 3:5-6; 19; 1 John 2:12

- 12) **Sanctification:** We believe those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's Word and the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in joyful obedience to all of Christ's commands.

John 17:17, 19; Romans 12:1-2; 15:16; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 1:4; Philippians 1:9-11; 2:12-13; 3:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23; Hebrews 2:11; 6:1; 7:1; 10:10; 12:10; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:5-8; 1 John 2:29

- 13) **Perseverance of the Saints:** We believe those whom God has accepted in Christ and sanctified by His Spirit will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace but shall certainly persevere to the end and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Jeremiah 32:40; Matthew 13:20-21; John 8:31; 6:66-69; 10:27-30; Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:11-14; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:12, 18

- 14) **The Church:** We believe in one holy universal Church made up of all who trust Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and Supreme Treasure. We believe that God calls believers to unite in local churches as a means of helping each other preeminently value Christ by praising Him together, growing in our love and knowledge of Him, stirring each other up to love and good deeds, and practicing all other Christian graces all for the glory of God and the joy of the Christian.

Matthew 28:18-20; John 10:16; Acts 1:8; 2:42; 15:36, 41; 16:5; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 16:1; Galatians 1:1-3; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 4:11-16; 5:19-21, 23; Colossians 1:18; 3:16; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; Revelation 1:4-11

- 15) **The Ordinances:** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe baptism is an obligation upon every believer, wherein a person is immersed in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of their fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ and the forgiveness of sin. We believe that the Lord's Supper is in no sense a sacrifice, but was instituted by Christ to commemorate his death, to stimulate faithful obedience to all Christ's commands, and to be a pledge and renewal of their communion with him and with one another. We believe that these two

ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 26:26-29; 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-31; 12:13

- 16) **Christian Conduct:** We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well being of others—particularly by communicating to all peoples the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. A Christian’s conduct should be blameless before the world, he should be a faithful steward of his possessions, and he should seek through the strength which God supplies, to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ, pressing after a heavenly life in joyful obedience to all Christ’s commands.

Ezekiel 36:27; Matthew 5:16, 31-32; 19:1-9; 28:20; John 14:15, 23-24; Romans 1:26-27; 6:1-7:6; 8:3-4, 12-14; 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 6:9-10, 18; 10:31; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 12:21; Galatians 5:13-24; 6:7-10; Ephesians 5:3-6; Hebrews 12:1-2; 13:5; Colossians 1:9-10; 3:17; 1 Timothy 6:6- 10; 1 Peter 2:12; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:16-18; Revelation 21:8

- 17) **The Last Things:** We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of his kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy of the righteous in the Lord’s presence, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Matthew 16:27; 25:31-46; Mark 14:62; John 5:28-29; 14:3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 2:6-11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:12-28; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15

3. Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

- a. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive, covenantal union, as delineated in Scripture.
- b. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- c. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexual conduct, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, any use of pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. No individual who is actively involved in sexual immorality (as defined above) will be approved for partnership at this church.
- d. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

- e. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.
- f. See Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:18-25; Exodus 20:14; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4.

4. Statement on Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God. Human life at all stages – including pre-born and end of life – should be valued, respected, and defended (Psalm 139).

5. Statement on Church Discipline of a Partner(s)

- a. The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1 Timothy 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
- b. The Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local church with the authority and responsibility to discipline partners for flagrant sin or serious doctrinal error, with the goal of the restoration of the offender. This discipline is entrusted to the church elders and is to follow the biblical pattern as set forth in Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:7-8; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10-11; and 2 John 7-11. Any partner of this church who practices or affirms a doctrine or conduct that, in the judgment of the church Governing Elders, is opposed to the teaching of the Word of God, or is threatening to the testimony of this church, or is divisive to the body, shall, be subject to church discipline.
- c. Discipline will follow the said biblical pattern, and is an effort to bring the individual to repentance and protect the church from unrepentant sin. Discipline may involve exclusion from participation in ministry and communion, and dismissal from the fellowship of this church. An individual may be disciplined by the church elders short of dismissal from the fellowship, as they deem appropriate for the specific circumstance (for example, an individual may remain in certain circumstances a partner of this church but be denied the privilege of serving in a particular ministry). The church Governing Elders, as is required by Scripture, may report to the congregation the names of those who have lost partnership by reason of church discipline, and the reason for that discipline, as described in Matthew 18: 15-20.
- d. The partners of this church further knowingly and voluntarily agree that a partner cannot voluntarily withdraw or resign his or her partnership in the midst of the discipline

process, and may only voluntarily withdraw or resign his or her partnership if they are not the subject of a discipline proceeding at the time.

6. Statement on Rescinding/Revocation of Partnership

Partnership may be revoked by the church or rescinded by the partner by the following means:

- a. Death.
- b. Transfer: a partner leaving this church may be granted a letter of transfer to unite with another church of like faith and practice.
- c. Withdrawal: a partner may rescind his partnership from this church upon a written request to the Elders.
- d. Refusal of discipline, offered under biblical guidelines, is grounds for revocation of partnership.
- e. Church Attendance: All partners, who for a period of three months do not attend the regular services of the church, except for unusual circumstances, shall, after being contacted by the Governing Elder team, have their church partnership deactivated.

7. Statement on Mediation of Partner(s)

- a. Partners of the church agree to submit any legal dispute with the church for mediation before a mutually agreed-upon mediator, or if none can be agreed upon, one selected by Peace Maker Ministries. Lawsuits between believers, or threats of lawsuits between believers, are a matter of grave concern for the church, are contrary to biblical and church teaching, and mediation is an effort to resolve disputes in a biblical fashion, (1 Cor. 6: 1-7).
- b. The mediation will be governed by the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation (ICC Rules), which we agree to follow, unless modified as stipulated by the parties. (The ICC Rules can be accessed at: http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.nu1WL7MOJtE/b.5335917/k.D8A2/Rules_of_Procedure.htm.) In particular, subject to the more detailed provisions of the ICC Rules, mediator(s) will attempt to assist us in reaching a voluntary settlement of this dispute through mediation. The confidentiality of the mediation process will be protected and these matters will not be discussed with people who do not have a necessary interest in them. If settlement can be agreed upon, the conciliators may, at their discretion, issue an advisory opinion. Neither the opinion, nor any communications exchanged in the mediation process will be admissible for any purpose in any subsequent legal proceeding.

8. Statement of Biblical Authority

The above Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Governing Elders are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.