

COVENANT AFFIRMATIONS

(excerpts for Affirmation booklet)

THE CENTRALITY OF THE WORD

The scriptures are the foundational story into which we are invited and the gauge by which measure our lives. The scriptures are a light, an anchor, a foundation that are living and active. As Covenanters we read the scriptures: Faithfully, Communally, Rigorously, Charitably, Holistically, and with a commitment to mission and action.

THE NECESSITY OF NEW BIRTH (NEW LIFE)

The new birth is more than the experience of forgiveness and acceptance. It is regeneration and the gift of eternal life. This life has the qualities of love and righteousness as well as joy and peace. For us, the Atonement of Christ means “At-one-ment”; being made one with God through God’s grace.

A COMMITMENT TO THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

An early Pietist, August Hermann Francke (1663-1727), described this when he said that the Christian lives for God’s glory and the good of one’s neighbor. The earliest name attributed to Covenanters was “Mission Friends,” people who covenanted together for the purpose of common mission both far and near. We exist for something beyond ourselves.

THE CHURCH AS A FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

The believers’ church is not simply a human institution or organization, but a people whom God has called. The emphasis does not fall on buildings or hierarchical structures, but upon a grace-filled fellowship and active participation, through the Holy Spirit, in the life and mission of Christ.

A CONSCIOUS DEPENDENCE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Covenant Church believes that the Spirit of God is active and “blows where it chooses” (John 3:8). The Spirit is the prevenient actor in the drama of salvation, the creator of hunger for Christ’s life, and the fulfiller of that hunger. We are often surprised at the unfolding of God’s purpose, suggesting that our ways and thoughts are not always the ways and thoughts of God. For this reason, Covenanters desire to cultivate a healthy humility before God opens to the leading of the Holy Spirit. When God is about doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19), we wish to perceive God at work rather than be found dull to the divine purpose.

THE REALITY OF FREEDOM IN CHRIST

The Covenant Church seeks to focus on what unites followers of Jesus Christ rather than what separates them. The center of our commitment is a clear faith in Jesus Christ. The centrality of the word of God, the necessity of the new birth, a commitment to the whole mission of the church, the church as a fellowship of believers, and a conscious dependence of the Holy Spirit form the parameters in which freedom is experienced. Here followers of Christ find the security to offer freedom to one another on issues that might otherwise divide.