

## **COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH BELIEFS:**

### **The Bible**

We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of the living God; and that it was written by holy men in ancient times as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*)

### **The Eternal God**

We believe that there is only one true and living God. He made heaven and earth and all that is in them. He is the beginning and the end of everything and He is Love. He is holy, just and merciful. He is worthy of worship. He is a mysterious trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (*1 John 5:7*).

### **The Fall of Man**

We believe that humans were created in the image of God, but that, because of our rebellion against God, we are all sinners and deserve the condemnation of a just and holy God (*Genesis 1:27; Rom 5:12*).

### **The Plan of Redemption**

We believe that, in spite of our rebellion, Jesus Christ died for us: the Just for the unjust. He took our sentence, carried our sins, received our condemnation, died our death, and fully paid our penalty. By simply believing and accepting this gift of love, any one of us, no matter how great our rebellion may have been, may be clean before God and made whole (*John 3:16; Titus 2:14*).

### **Salvation through Grace**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is absolutely because of God's grace. We have no righteousness or goodness of our own by which to approach God (*Ephesians 2:8*).

### **Repentance and Acceptance**

We believe that God will receive anyone who comes to Him with sincere repentance, sorrow for their sin, and a whole-hearted acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior (*Romans 10:6-10; 1 John 1:9*).

### **The New Birth**

We believe that the change that takes place in a person's heart and life when they accept Jesus as their Savior is a very real one. This person is then born again. God gives them a new life, and all their past sin is forgiven (*2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20*).

### **Daily Christian Life**

We believe that it is God's will for us to grow stronger in faith, prayer, love and service every day (*2 Corinthians 7:1*).

### **Water Baptism & the Lord's Supper**

We believe that water baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, according to Jesus' example and command, is a public sign of the private change going on in our lives (*Romans 6:4*). We believe in taking communion as a reminder that Jesus' body was broken for us and His blood shed for us (*1 Corinthians 11:24-26*).

## **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that God baptizes His people with the Holy Spirit when they ask for Him. The Holy Spirit gives us power to live for God, to tell other people what He has done for us, and to help one another as He gives us comfort, courage, wisdom and guidance (*Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4*).

## **The Spirit Filled Life**

We believe that God's will is for our lives to demonstrate our faith in God. We are learning to be patient, loving, truthful, sincere, and prayerful, not complaining, and always ready to serve other people as God gives us strength (*Ephesians 4:30-32; Galatians 5:16, 25*).

## **The Gifts & Fruit of the Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to the Church: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. We believe that the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – is the evidence of a Spirit-filled life (*1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Galatians 5:22-25*).

## **Divine Healing**

We believe that Jesus Christ is willing and able to heal sick bodies and troubled minds in answer to believing prayer. (*Mark 16:17-18; James 5:14-16*).

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

We believe Jesus will come again, but that no one knows when this will be. (*Matthew 24:36, 42, 44; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*).

## **Tithing & Offerings**

We believe that the method ordained of God to sustain His ministry and the spread of the gospel after His command is through the financial support of God's people (*Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2*).

## **The Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe in the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to the time of death. All human life is precious in the sight of God. (*Luke 1:15; Galatians 1:15; Psalm 22:10; 71:6; 139:13-14; Mark 8:36; Psalm 72:14; Isaiah 43*)

## **Our Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (*Gen 1:26-27*.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (*Gen 2:18-25*.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (*1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4*.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (*Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10*.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Covenant Christian Community Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Covenant Christian Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Covenant Christian Community Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. *(Matt. 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22.)*

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. *(Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.)*

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. *(Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.)* Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the