

# **Community Reformed Church**

## **Statement of Faith**

### **The Bible**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31, 32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32.

### **The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5, 6.

### **God The Father**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Luke 10:21, 22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1, 2; 2:5, 6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6.

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal visible return to earth. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Timothy 3:16.

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. John 14:16, 17, 26; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26.

### **Sin and Salvation**

We believe that humans were created by God in His own image; that they sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God, that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. Salvation is a work of God. It is not a human work. Therefore, no one earns salvation. No one deserves salvation. Yet, in God's gracious plan, he chose some to respond to his offer of salvation. No human being has the ability to turn away from sin and toward God. It is only possible if God first draws a person to himself by regeneration. Genesis 1:26; 5:2; 3; 2:17; Ecclesiastes 2:11; John 3:14;

5:24; 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelations 19:3, 20; 14:15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 9:13-16.

## The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world, the consistent and proper administration of the Sacraments, and church discipline. Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25.

## Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of all people; a Christian's conduct should be blameless before the world. Every believer should be a faithful steward of possessions and should seek to realize for self and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1, 2; John 14:15, 23, 24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:9, 10.

## The Sacraments

We believe the Sacraments are an important means by which believers are reminded of the work Jesus Christ has done on their behalf. They are external symbols of an inward reality. There are two Sacraments instituted by God: baptism and communion. Baptism is a sign of God's promises (covenant). It reminds us that while we are by nature sinful and guilty before God, we are also saved from sin's consequences, included in God's family, and given the gift of eternal life by our faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that Communion was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two sacraments should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Titus 3:4-7.

## 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 and eternal separation from God for the wicked. Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15.

*This information is a summary of what we believe which comes from our commitment to these three catholic creeds: Apostles, Athanasian, and Nicean and the following doctrinal standards: Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and Canons of Dordt. For more information, please refer to these documents as a comprehensive statement of what we believe about what God has revealed through Scripture and creation. They are available upon request and can be easily found on the internet.*