

Cornerstone Community Church
Grand Marais, Minnesota
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A. The Word of God

1. We believe that the Bible is the word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under 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; John 8:31,32; 1 Corinthians 2:13**
2. For the purposes of Cornerstone Community Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our pastor and elders, who together are the shepherds of this congregation, are Cornerstone's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.
Acts 6:2-4; Titus 1:9, 15

B. 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.
Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 86:10; John 17:3; Isaiah 63:8-11; Matthew 3:16; John 3:34-35

1. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe God is the source of and sovereign¹ over all life. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of human beings and He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. **Exodus 3:14; Matthew 5:48, 23:9; John 3:16, 4:24; 1 John 5:14-15, Deuteronomy 4:31**

2. 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 once for all substitutionary atoning death², bodily resurrection,

¹Sovereign - one who rules with supreme, ultimate, and final authority.

²Substitutionary atoning death - Jesus Christ's death on the cross satisfied the just and right demands of God's holiness in regards to human sin on behalf of all human beings as our perfect, sinless representative.

ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and future, personal, visible return to earth. **John 3:16; Matthew 1:18, 7:28-29, 28:5-6; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Luke 24:51; Acts 2:22; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:27b**

3. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit Who comes forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate³, sanctify, and empower (through personal indwelling and spiritual gifts) 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 15:26-27, 16:9-14, 17-26; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Galatians 5:22, 26; Ephesians 1:13-14**

C. Regeneration

We believe that man was created by God in His own image, that man 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 nature and by choice and are therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation, and receive eternal life. **Genesis 1:26, 2:17; John 1:13, 3:16, 5:24, 8:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 19: 14-15, 20; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 5:19, 8:1; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

D. 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 on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary tasks of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world and making disciples in order to fulfill God's mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory. **1 Corinthians 12:13, 16:19; Ephesians 1:22, 2:19, 22; Colossians 1:18, 28, 3:16; Romans 16:5, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19, Habakkuk 2:14**

E. Christian Conduct

1. We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men, that he should be blameless before the world, that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions, and that he should seek to realize for

³Regenerate - to make new; in the spiritual sense, to be born again with a new spiritual nature by the mercy of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in response to faith in Christ.

himself and others the full stature⁴ of maturity in Christ.

2 Peter 1:1-9, 3:18; Philippians 1:2-11; Acts 20:35; Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-13; Colossians 1:28; 1 Corinthians 10:31

2. Specific Issues of Social Concern

a. As examples of the expression of spiritually regenerate character and gospel driven conduct anticipated of adherents to this affirmation, we hold that:

- (1) All human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. **Genesis 1:28, Psalm 139**
- (2) God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is rejection of the image of God within that person. **Genesis 1:26-27**
- (3) In regards to human social relationships, the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one biological male and one biological female in a single, exclusive, lifelong union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no sexual intimacy be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. **Genesis 1:18-25; 1 Cor 6:18, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4**
- (4) Any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to: adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. **Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

b. These examples are not inclusive of all contingencies but illustrate the expected reliance on the word of God as the normative guide for all Christian conduct in regards to personal values and activities.

⁴Stature - quality or status gained by growth, development, or achievement

- E. The Ordinances⁵
We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death and is reserved for believers. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of Christ. **Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:19**
- F. Religious Liberty
We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. **Ephesians 3:12; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:7-9; Deuteronomy 4:39; Romans 13:1; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19**
- G. Church Cooperation
We believe independent, autonomous local churches can best improve their mission fulfilment and expand their mission outreach by cooperation with one another in an associational organization. Cooperation in a conference, whether national or regional, is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary basis.
- H. Eschatology⁶
We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom as prophesied in the Old and New Testaments. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity⁷ of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked. **Matthew 16:27; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13; Acts 1:11; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15, 21:3, 22:20; John 14:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10; 2 Timothy 4:1**

⁵Ordinances - Ceremonial and symbolic activities of worship specifically explained, instructed, and commanded by Christ for His disciples.

⁶Eschatology - formally, the study of last things; doctrines related to the end of this age and the events culminating in the establishment of God's eternal Kingdom.

⁷Felicity - intense happiness characterized by joy, joyfulness, joyousness, bliss, delight, cheerfulness; contentedness, satisfaction, and pleasure.