



COMPASSION CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Statement of Faith

ARTICLE 1 MISSION

Compassion Christian Church Exists:

To lead people to a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

ARTICLE 2 BELIEFS

Jesus

We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and God in human form. We believe that the virgin-born Son of God died for our sins, was buried, rose from the dead and is coming again. We believe He is both fully God and fully man.

Philippians 2:5-7, John 14:19, John 8:58, John 1:1, 14 and Colossians 2:9

The Bible

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the written record of His supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content and without any error in its teaching and is “living and active” ever speaking to our present circumstances.

Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20-21

Sin and Salvation

We believe that all people are guilty of sin because all people are born with a sin nature which leads all people to sin.

Jeremiah 17:9 and Romans 3:23

We believe the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross is the sole basis of atonement for the sins of mankind.

Isaiah 53:3-6, 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Romans 5:8

We believe that the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life are promised to those who trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

John 3:16-1 and, Ephesians 2:8-9

We believe the Bible teaches that the pattern to follow to receive Jesus as Savior is to believe in Jesus as God's Son and Savior of the world, to repent of personal sin, to confess Jesus as Lord, and to be immersed in baptism.

Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38-39 and Romans 6:3-4

We believe in the assignment of all people to heaven or to hell at their time of death or at the time of Christ's return.

Hebrews 9:27, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Revelation 20:1 and, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Free Will and God's Sovereignty

We believe that when a person puts his faith in Jesus and is saved, it is through a cooperation of that person's free choice responding to the work of God upon him.

God gives indispensable help in moving a person's heart to receive Christ, but that does not eliminate God's sovereign decree that man

should be free to exercise moral choice. God graciously enables every sinner to repent and believe but does not interfere with man's freedom. Each sinner possesses a free will, and his eternal destiny depends on how he uses it. The sinner has the power to either cooperate with God's Spirit and be regenerated or resist God's grace and perish.

We believe that a saving relationship with Jesus is based on faith in Jesus apart from any "works" of righteousness or meritorious acts.

Ephesians 2:8-9

The Holy Spirit

We believe that those who receive Christ also receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit: He marks them as the possession of God, manifests the fruit of righteousness in their character, and endows them with spiritual gifts for ministry.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

We believe that a spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to minister to others and thereby build up the Body of Christ.

1 Pet 4:10, Romans 12:6-8, 1 and Corinthians 12:7-11

- a. We believe that through the Holy Spirit God supernaturally intervenes in life by healing and other miraculous intervention.
- b. Regarding the miraculous gifts of speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, and the spiritual gift of healing by one's own will: We believe that in New Testament churches which lacked direct apostolic leadership, these specific miraculous gifts were not present because in the New Testament they are only given by the laying on of the Apostles' hands. Therefore, we do not expect to see spiritual gifts such as speech in tongues and healing by one's own will as a normative gift in the church today.

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

- c. Since we do not believe these particular gifts are normative in the church today, we ask that those who seek to exercise these particular spiritual gifts (e.g. speaking in tongues) not practice them within our worship services or promote the exercise of them among our members.

Sanctity of Life

We believe that 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.

Psalm 139:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union between one man and one woman, and that sexual intimacy is to occur exclusively within that union.

Genesis 2:24, Jeremiah 29:6, Isaiah 62:5, Leviticus 18:22 and Leviticus 20:13

The Church has adopted a Statement of Marriage and Sexuality as set forth in Article 3 herein.

Gender

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God.

We believe that gender is assigned by God at birth and the Holy Scripture does not permit an individual from altering their sexual identity physically or otherwise.

Genesis 1:27 and Deuteronomy 23:1

The Local Church

We believe the Church should seek unity with all believers in matters essential to the universal Christian faith, and contend for liberty in all matters wherein the Lord has not spoken through His Word.

Ephesians 4:2-6

We believe the local church is an autonomous body which cooperates with many Christian agencies but is regulated or dominated by none.

Ephesians 5:23b

We believe love is to be shown to all people as the central trait of the Christian faith.

John 13:35 and 1 Peter 4:8

We believe the mission of the church is to reach the spiritually lost for Christ, to teach with the goal of “forming Christ in them” and to mobilize believers to accomplish God’s purposes in the world.

Matthew 28:18-20

We believe that the pattern of the New Testament was to observe the Lord’s Supper each week.

Acts 2:42

We believe that each believer should give a generous, intentional, regular, proportional gift of his or her income to God, through the local church, as a spiritual discipline. Scripture gives us the tithe (one tenth) as the normal beginning point of giving for a

believer.

Malachi 3:10, 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired 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 Compassion Christian Church's faith, doctrine, policy, and discipline, our Pastoral Leadership Team and Elders are Compassion Christian Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Genesis 1:27

ARTICLE 3

STATEMENT OF MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

(A) Marriage. Scripture teaches that God ordained marriage to be a covenant between one man with one woman only. The entirety of scripture affirms only this definition of marriage. Scripture teaches this definition when it describes, in Genesis, God's creation of the marriage covenant and Jesus affirms this definition in his teaching in texts like *Matthew 19:4-6*. Furthermore, the idea that marriage is a covenant only between one man and one woman has been the traditional definition of marriage for all of human history ("Traditional Definition of Marriage"). Because of the longstanding importance of the Traditional Definition of Marriage to humans and their relationships and communities, and, most importantly, the fact that God has ordained that marriage be between one man and one woman, Compassion Christian Church hereby creates this policy, which shall be known as the "Marriage Policy."

Under Compassion Christian Church's Marriage Policy, the Traditional Definition of Marriage is the only definition of marriage that will be recognized or accepted. No Elder, officer, employee, servant, agent, or any person, corporation, organization, or entity under the direction or control of this Church shall commit any act or omission, or make any decision whatsoever, that would be inconsistent with, or that could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with, full support of this Church's Marriage Policy and strict adherence to the Traditional Definition of Marriage rather than any alternative to

the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

This Church's Marriage Policy specifically prohibits acts or omissions including but not limited to permitting any Church assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be or could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with this Church's Marriage Policy or the Traditional Definition of Marriage, including but not limited to permitting any church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

This Church's Marriage Policy is based upon God's will for human life as conveyed to us through the Holy Scriptures, upon which this Church has been founded and anchored, and this Marriage Policy shall not be subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level. (*See Genesis 2:18-24, 1:27-28; Matthew 19:4-6 and Ephesians 5:23, 25, 31-32.*)

(B) Common-Law Marriage. In no case shall persons be accepted into membership and/or employment who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

(C) Sexuality. Sexuality and the divinely prescribed boundaries for the expression thereof is covered clearly in the Holy Scriptures, which limit sexual expression to the marital relationship of one man with one woman. Homosexual acts, adultery, bestiality, and all forms of fornication are categorically condemned in the Holy Scriptures. (*See 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Romans 1:26-27; Proverbs 5:3-5, 8-13; 7:21-27; Galatians 5:19; Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27; 19:18; Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9; James 2:11; Leviticus 20:10-21; 1 Corinthians 10:8; 6:18; and Jude 7.*) Furthermore, the Church believes that sexuality is assigned by God at birth, whatever that may be, and the Holy Scripture does not permit an individual from altering their sexual identity physically or otherwise. (*See Deuteronomy 23:1.*)

ARTICLE 4

POSITION ON BAPTISM

The New Testament teaches that when a person puts his faith in Jesus, that

process is culminated by immersion in water as a public testimony of that decision. In other words, God intended baptism to be part of how a person puts his faith in Jesus.

We aren't making a theological argument about the exact moment that a person is saved. Instead, we teach that after the resurrection of Jesus, there is no concept in the New Testament of an unbaptized believer.

We understand that there are people from other traditions who have confessed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, but were baptized as an infant, before they had faith. There are also other believers who confessed their faith in Jesus but were simply never taught the New Testament teaching of baptism. In these cases, we teach people to fulfill the teaching of the New Testament by being baptized (immersed) as a believing adult. We also require all un-baptized believers to be baptized before becoming a member of Compassion Christian Church.

Romans 5:1-2, Luke 24:45-47, Acts 3:19, 17:30, 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9, Philippians 2:11, 1 John 4:15, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-7, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12 and 1 Peter 3:21

ARTICLE 5

TEAM ASSUMPTIONS

The following Team Assumptions apply to all Compassion Christian Church Staff and Applicants.

1. We will consistently work to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, recognizing that the overall ministry of CCC is greater than the individual ministries for which we are each personally responsible.
2. We will share concerns only with the appropriate people...i.e., those who are part of the problem or part of the solution!
3. We will strictly maintain confidentiality.
4. We will only speak positively of others on staff.
5. We will maintain the highest standards of integrity.

6. We will reflect integrity in the total of hours worked (not including personal lunch breaks, etc.), averaging a minimum of 50 hours per week for pastoral staff.

Leaders are not the exception; we are the example.

7. We will submit expenses only for calls, lunches and purchases that we deem necessary to the conduct of church business, and we will submit mileage for the same (not to include the daily commute to and from the church).
8. We will always reflect a commitment to purity and to the sanctity of marriage; therefore, our relations with others will never include flirting, kissing, inappropriate touching, viewing or participating in pornography, engaging in or supporting lifestyle choices that would include any homosexual or transgender behaviors, all of which are contrary to and in violation of the Church's Statement of Faith. Except in emergency situations, married staff will never travel alone with a member of the opposite sex.
9. Because we believe that life begins at conception and is ordained by God, we do not support abortion under any circumstances.
10. We will be faithful in daily prayer and Bible study.
11. We will seek to set a high standard of behavior by abstaining from gambling, drugs, vulgarity and conduct inappropriate of a Christian leader. In addition, our staff is required to abstain from the use of tobacco and alcohol.
12. We will consistently give at least 10% of all personal income to God's work through CCC. We will also support Global Missions and Capital Campaigns over and above our tithe.

Statement of Understanding

I have read the *Statement of Faith* of Compassion Christian Church, including the *Beliefs, Position on Baptism*, and *Team Assumptions* statements.

- I agree with all positions as presented.

- I agree with all positions as presented with exceptions (see below).

Exceptions:

Applicant

Date