

## **REDEEMER COVENANT CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Desiring an attitude of tolerance, love and Christian unity, and in keeping with the principles of personal freedom, so highly esteemed by the Evangelical Covenant Church, we wish to make clear that the following statement sets forth the positions which this church chooses to teach and defend. It is required that the ministerial staff and all church members understand, support and live out this statement.

- 1) The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God without error in the original writings, and the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
- 2) There is one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 3) Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of God, He is our High Priest and advocate.
- 4) The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, during this age, to convict men of sin, intercede for and empower the believer for godly living and service. The Holy Spirit supplies sovereignly, with the Father and the Son, all the enabling gifts for the Church and the individual in the Church to exalt Christ. These gifts are given for the completion of the body and not for personal status. Such gifts are not a measure of spiritual stature or the criteria for evaluating spiritual maturity. We are commanded to seek the fullness of the Spirit in the common worship of the Church (Eph 5:18ff). We are to manifest the gifts imparted and the fruit bestowed by the Spirit. We believe in the Holy Spirit.
- 5) God created man in His own image but man turned from God, fell into sin and therefore is lost, and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
- 6) The shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for the justification and salvation for all who believe and only those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become the children of God.
- 7) There will be a bodily resurrection of all the dead, of the believer to everlasting joy with the Lord, and of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting punishment away from the presence of the Lord. The personal, pre-millennial, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ is our blessed hope and has a strong motivational effect on the personal life and service of the believer.
- 8) The true church is composed of all persons, who through faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the head.
- 9) The Holy Scriptures are the source of the Church's life and the means for its renewal. By continuing to listen to, accept, and reflect upon the Word of God, it keeps its ministry vital and its witness clear. "If you continue in my Word," says Jesus, "you are my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31ff) Included in the ministry of The Word is the observance of Baptism\* and Holy Communion as sacraments of the church, expressly commanded by our Lord. They are visible signs of the invisible grace of Jesus Christ. These we do in remembrance of the Lord's redemptive work as He continues to reveal Himself to us as we obey and partake in these commands.

*\*While Redeemer Covenant Church continues to teach, defend and practice "believers" baptism, we also allow for the practice, in accordance with the Evangelical Covenant Church's theological position, of "infant" baptism by our licensed and ordained ministers.*