



River COMMUNITY CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, whose name is the LORD. He is holy, just, merciful and gracious, and he is infinitely and unchangingly perfect. He eternally exists in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

Exodus 3:14–15; 20:3–4; 34:6–7; Deuteronomy 4:35; 4:39; 6:4–5; 32:39; 1 Samuel 2:2; 1 Kings 8:23; Psalm 86:8–10; Isaiah 6:3; 44:6–8; 45:5–25; 46:9; Jeremiah 10:6–10; Micah 7:18; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 3:13–17; 28:18–20; John 4:24; 10:30; 14:6; 17:3; 17:11; 17:20–21; Acts 5:3–4; 17:24–25; 1 Corinthians 8:4–6; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 13:14; Galatians 3:20; Ephesians 1:3–14; 4:5–6; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Timothy 1:17; 2:5; James 1:17; 2:19; 1 John 5:20; Jude 25; Revelation 4:11

A. God the Father

We believe that God the Father Almighty is the Creator of heaven and earth. He providentially reigns with Fatherly love and care over His entire creation. He is the Father eternally, without beginning or end, and He initiates, authors, and plans all of God's works. The name Father reveals God as the perfect Father over His creation and those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son.

Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1–3; Isaiah 9:6; 43:15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:9–14; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9–11; John 5:26; 14:6–13; 17:1–8; Acts 1:7; 17:29; Romans 8:14–15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:4–6; Ephesians 1:4–5; 3:9–11, 14–15; 4:6; Col 1:15; Hebrews 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; Revelation 4:11

B. God the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Lord Jesus is now and forever the incarnate Son of God, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate and will return to judge the living and the dead. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

Isaiah 53:4–5; 55:1; Jeremiah 31:31–34; Matthew 1:18, 21; 4:17; 11:20–24, 28–30; 16:21; 27:2, 26, 59–60; Mark 1:15; 8:31; 9:31; 15:15, 46; 16:9, 19; Luke 1:27, 34–35; 22:69; 24:5–7, 45–46, 51; John 1:1–18; 3:13–21, 31; 6:33–38, 51; 5:40; 6:29; 8:12; 10:30; 19:10; Acts 1:9; 2:36; 4:12; 10:40; Romans 1:3; 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:3–4; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 4:6; Galatians 4:4–5; Ephesians 4:5; Philippians 2:6–7; Colossians 1:13–17; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Timothy 2:4–5; Hebrews 1:3, 5, 10; 2:14; 4:15–16; 9:11–21; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:21–22; 1 John 5:20; Revelation 1:8

C. God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully divine, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son and is to be worshiped and glorified. In all that He does, He glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit, from beginning to end, applies the great work of salvation. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He seals and guarantees our inheritance, graciously assuring us that we are His. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service. In accordance with His will, the Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers for the common good and for building up the church.

Ezekiel 36:25–27; Matthew 12:49–50; Mark 1:8; John 3:3, 5; 14:17; 16:8, 13–14; Acts 1:5, 8; 6:8; 10:38; 15:28; Romans 3:24; 5:15–21; 8:4–6, 11–16; 9:4; 12:4–8; 15:13; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 3:16; 6:19; 12:1–11; 14:12; 15:22; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 4:4–15; 5:17; 6:18; 13:14; Galatians 1:22; 2:17; 3:3, 5, 28; 4:5; 5:16–25; Eph 1:4–5, 13, 17–19; 2:5, 12, 22; 3:6, 14–16; 4:3, 7–11, 30–32; Philippians 1:9–11; 2:1–2; Colossians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:4–5; 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:7; 2:10; Titus 3:5, 7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3; 4:10–11; 1 John 3:14–18

2. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Exodus 24:12; 31:18; 32:15–16; 34:1; Deuteronomy 4:2, 13; 8:3; 10:4; 12:32; 17:18; 30:9–10; Joshua 1:7–8; 8:34–35; 24:25–28; Psalm 119; Proverbs 30:5–6; Ezra 7:14; Nehemiah 8:8; Isaiah 8:1–2; 30:8–11; 34:16–17; 40:8; 51:16; 59:21; Jeremiah 1:9; 3:6; 5:14; 26:17–18; 30:2; Ezekiel 3:26; Daniel 9:2; Matthew 4:4; 5:17–20; 19:4–6; 21:42; 26:54; Mark 12:36; Luke 1:1–4; 24:25–47; John 5:39; 10:34–35; Acts 1:16; 2:29–31; 4:24–26; 13:32–35; Romans 2:12; 3:2; 9:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Galatians 3:8, 22; Philippians 2:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15–17; Hebrews 1:1–2; 4:12–13; 2 Peter 1:19–21; 3:15–16; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 22:18–19

3. Humanity

We believe God created humanity in His own image, and because of this every person—regardless of culture, ethnicity, developmental stage, mental capacity, or any other factor—has inherent and equal worth. God created humanity male and female, as the crowning jewel of His creation. Human beings are body-soul unities; therefore, gender is not self-determined but a wonderful gift from God unchangeably rooted in the body. Differences between men and women reflect God’s design and foster human flourishing. God’s design also encompasses marriage, which is the lifelong covenant union of one man and one woman that pictures the union between Christ and His bride, the church. God’s design also includes singleness, which is a gracious gift God gives to serve Him without distraction and divided interests. Marriage is the only legitimate, God-ordained context for sexual union and procreation. Marriage and its sexual expression are temporary gifts that point to the fuller joy of our eternal union with Christ.

Genesis 1:26–30; 2:5, 7, 18–22, 24; 9:6; Exodus 21:16; Psalm 1; 8:3–6; 139:14; Isaiah 54:5; Matthew 19:4–6; 19:10–12; Mark 2:19–20; Mark 10:6–9; 12:25; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 7:1–9, 25–35, 38–40; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–32; Colossians 1:16; 1 Timothy 1:9–11; Revelation 7:17; 19:7–9; 21:9–10

4. The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but when tempted by Satan they sinned by willfully rebelling against God and His commands and thus brought sin and death into the world. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and morally responsible for their sin, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled, and renewed.

Genesis 1:27; 31; 2:16–17; 3:1–24; 6:5, 12; 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 18:19–20; Matthew 20:15; Acts 17:26–29; Romans 1:18–32; 2:1–16; 3:9–18; 5:12–21; Galatians 3:10, 22; Ephesians 2:1–3; Colossians 1:21; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10

5. Salvation

We believe that salvation is a mighty work of God's grace in which He chose to save a people not based on their own merit but solely because of His mercy in Christ. God's sovereignty in salvation is perfectly consistent with human responsibility. We believe that the power of the gospel is sufficient to save even the greatest sinners and that all people are called to repent and believe in Jesus. We believe that sinners must be regenerated, or born again, to enter the kingdom of God. Regeneration is a change of heart, accomplished by the Holy Spirit. Through faith alone in Jesus, God justifies sinners by declaring them not guilty but righteous instead; justification removes our guilt and reconciles us to God by freely crediting to us Christ's perfect righteousness. Salvation also includes sanctification, which is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit to conform us to the image of Christ and empower us to grow in holiness until we are glorified in heaven. All who are truly born again will endure to the end in faith and obedience. Though true believers may fall into sin and grieve the Holy Spirit and bring reproach on Christ's name, yet again they shall be renewed unto repentance and kept by the power of God.

Exodus 33:18–19; Deuteronomy 7:7–8; Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 53:11–12; Jeremiah 31:3, 31–34; Ezekiel 36:25–27; Matthew 5:13; 9:6; 24:13; John 1:12–13, 16; 3:3–7; 6:37–44; 6:38–40; 8:31; 10:16, 27–29; 15:6, 16; 17:17; Acts 2:22–23; 4:27–28; 10:43–44; 13:48; 15:14; 16:14; 18:12; Romans 1:16; 3:20–28; 3:27; 4:1–5:21; 4:16; 6:5–6, 11–19, 23; 8:28–9:24; 8:30–34; 10:12–13; 11:5–6, 22, 28–36; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 26–31; 3:5–7; 6:11; 9:22, 27; 10:12; 15:1, 10; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17–21; 7:1; Galatians 1:15–16; 2:15–17, 20; 3:24; 5:16–24; Ephesians 1:1–2:10; 1:13–14; 2:1–5; 4:20–24, 30; Philippians 1:6; 3:7–9, 12–14; Colossians 1:22–23; 2:13; 3:5–10, 12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4–10; 2:12; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:8–9; 2:10, 12; Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7; Hebrews 1:14; 3:12–14; 4:11, 14; 6:11–12; 9:15; 10:24–25; 12:1, 14; James 1:17–18; 1 Peter 1:1–3, 15; 2:9; 3:18; 2 Peter 1:10–11; 1 John 2:12, 19; 3:9–10; 4:7, 19; 5:1–4, 18; 2 John 1:9; Jude 20–21, 24–25; Revelation 2–3; 3:19; 13:8; 14:12; 21:7

6. The Church

We believe that the true Church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the head. The true Church is manifest in local churches who regularly gather to worship the living God, and whose membership should be composed only of baptized believers. We believe that the local church is governed by the Word of God, with Jesus as its head. Its two Scriptural offices are that of elder and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, elders are qualified men given to lead the church as pastors; deacons are to serve and strengthen the church by meeting tangible needs, promoting unity, and supporting the work of ministry. The local church observes the ordinances of Christ, submits to His commands, carries out discipline, and exercises the gifts given by the Holy Spirit for mutual edification. In obedience to Christ's commands, the church is to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, making disciples of all nations.

Matthew 5:16; 16:13–19; 18:15–20; 28:18–20; John 13:34–35; 17:20–24; Acts 2:41–42, 47; 5:14; 6:1–6; 11:26; 14:23; 20:28; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 5:1–13; 11:25–26; 1 Corinthians 14:1–40; 2 Corinthians 2:6–8; Ephesians 3:10; 4:1–2, 11–12; 5:22–23; 1 Timothy 2:12; 3:1–13–15; 4:13; 5:17, 20; Titus 1:5–9; Hebrews 10:19–25; 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1–5; Revelation 5:9

7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to our faith in the final resurrection of the dead. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers, following solemn self-examination, eat bread and drink from the cup to commemorate together the saving sacrifice of Christ and their communion with him and one another. Though the ordinances are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Matthew 3:13–17; 26:26–29; 28:18–20; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:14–20; Acts 1:4–5; 2:38–42; 8:36–38; 16:32–33; 20:7; 22:16; Romans 6:1–4; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:17–34; 12:12–13; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:4–6; Colossians 2:9–13; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Revelation 19:9

8. Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. Every aspect of our lives is to be submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Exodus 23:6; Deuteronomy 6:5; 15:11; Leviticus 19:15, 18; Psalm 82:3–4; 140:12; Proverbs 14:21, 31; 19:17; 22:9, 16, 22–23; 28:8; 29:7; 31:8–9; Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah 9:24; 22:16; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9–10; Matthew 5:13–16; 7:17–18; 12:33–35; 22:37–39; 23:23; 28:19; Mark 12:30; Luke 4:18; 10:27; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Romans 6:11, 14; 12:10; 14:13; 15:7, 14; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 10:31; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17; 10:3–5; Galatians 2:10; 5:26; Ephesians 2:10; 4:32; 6:10–12, 18; Philippians 2:12–13; Colossians 3:17, 23; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 5:11, 15, 23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9; 4:7; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24–25; 11:6; 12:1, 14; James 1:27; 2:17; 1 Peter 1:15; 2:24; 4:9; 2 Peter 1:3–11; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 5:3–4; Revelation 7:9

9. Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Matthew 16:27; 19:28; 24:30, 36, 42–51; 25:31; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 13:32; Luke 9:26; 21:27; Acts 1:11; Romans 13:11–14; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; 2 Thessalonians 1:6–8, 10; 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:13–14; Hebrews 9:28; James 5:8–9; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:13; 5:1, 4; 2 Peter 3:10–14; 1 John 3:2–3; Revelation 1:7; 3:3; 19:11–21

10. Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world in righteousness, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment in hell and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace.

Isaiah 26:19; 55:6–7; 65:17; 66:22; Daniel 12:2; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; 25:34, 46; 26:31–32; Mark 1:15; Luke 16:26; 24:47; John 1:12; 6:29; 8:24; 11:26; 14:1; 20:31; Acts 2:37–38; 3:19; 14:15; 16:31; 17:31; 20:20–21; 26:17–18; Romans 2:4; 3:22; 8:19–21; 10:14; 14:10; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 7:9–10; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 1:6, 12; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Timothy 1:16; 2 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 12:26–27; 1 Peter 1:8; 2 Peter 3:13; 1 John 3:23; Revelation 14:11; 20:12–13; 21:1–8; 22:3, 14–15

11. Cooperation

We believe that an autonomous local church operating under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the leadership of qualified elders may voluntarily and freely cooperate with other organizations, associations, conventions, and churches for missions, education, and benevolence.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17–27; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3–4; 2:68–69; 5:14–15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1–5; Matthew 10:5–15; 20:1–16; 22:1–10; 28:19–20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1–12; Acts 1:13–14; 2:1–47.; 4:31–37; 13:2–3; 15:1–35; 1 Corinthians 1:10–17; 3:5–15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8–9; Galatians 1:6–10; Ephesians 4:1–16; Philippians 1:15–18