

PROVIDENCE ROAD STATEMENT OF FAITH

Adopted: June 8, 2010

Amended: June 26, 2018

PURPOSE

We believe that God exists and has revealed himself to mankind. We also believe that as Christians, we have the incredible responsibility to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. We praise God for His salvation through Jesus and in response, we seek to demonstrate and declare this message in obedience to Christ's commission. The following statement, therefore, is a summary of the truths of God revealed in the Bible. We fully affirm the following statement and seek to live our lives in light of these truths. Furthermore, this document is a foundational guide for all instruction, teaching, and preaching at Providence Road Church.

THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, written by men under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit. The Bible consists of sixty-six books in the Old and New Testaments. It is without error in the original manuscripts, and infallible in all matters upon which it touches. It has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. We also affirm the power of God's Word to accomplish his purpose of salvation. We confess that our sinfulness and our finite nature prohibit us from knowing God's truth exhaustively. However, through the Holy Spirit, we affirm that we can know God's revealed truth truly.

(Isaiah 55:11; Mark 13:31; John 8:31-32; John 20:31; Romans 1:16; I Corinthians 1:21; I Corinthians 2:12-26; 13:12; Ephesians 1:17-18; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21)

THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one true, good, and living God who is of one substance, power, and eternal purpose, yet eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son. The Triune God is the Creator of all things, seen and unseen. Therefore, He is worthy of all glory and praise. He is infinitely perfect both in love and holiness. Immortal and eternal, he perfectly and exhaustively knows the end from the beginning, sustains and sovereignly rules over all things, and providentially brings about his eternal good purposes to redeem a people for himself and restore his fallen creation, to the praise of his glorious grace.

(Genesis 1:1, 26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 115:3; John 1:1-3; 4:24; 5:26; 15:26; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 10:30; 16:13-14; Acts 7:2; Romans 1:19-20; I Corinthians 8:6; II Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:11; 4:5-6; Colossians 1:15-16; 2:9; I John 5:7)

CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE AND HUMANITY

We believe that God created all things, visible and invisible, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness. He created the universe and everything in it out of nothing, by the Word of His power. We believe that God uniquely created Adam from the dust of the ground and Eve from his side. Adam and Eve were created – male and female – equally in the image of God and without sin. They were created to serve one another in complementary ways, demonstrating marriage as a type of union between Christ and His church.

(Genesis 1; 2:7; 9:6; Job 26:13; 33:4; Psalm 24:1-2; 33:5-6; 104:24; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Jeremiah 10:12; John 1:1-3; Acts 17:24; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 4:24; 5:22-33; Colossians 1:16; 3:10; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3; Revelation 4:11)

SANCTITY OF HUMAN 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.

(Genesis: 1:26-27; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 127:3; 139; Proverbs 24:11-12; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 10:14-15; 16:15; Luke 14:12-14; John 9:1-3; Romans 3:23)

MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that marriage is sanctioned by God and that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning in the Bible. We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality – such as adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or attempts to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex – is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Providence Road.

(Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; Psalm 139; Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-12; Luke 5:29-32; Romans 1:18-32; I Corinthians 6:9-20; 7:2-5; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 5:21-33; Hebrews 13:4; I

Timothy 1:8-11)

THE FALL

We believe that Adam and Eve were commanded by God not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Under the influence and seduction of Satan's temptation, Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying this command of God. They thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. As a result, all humans are alienated from God because Adam's guilt, death, and condemnation spread to all mankind. All men and women are now born with a sinful nature, inclining them first to evil, not good. They are slaves to sin and, apart from the salvific work of God in their life, are eternally separated from God.

(Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6-8; Job 14:4; Psalm 51:5; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Matthew 15:19; Romans 3:10-18, 23; 5:12-19; 6:16, 20; 8:7-8; I Corinthians 2:14; 15:21; Ephesians 2:2-3; Titus 1:15)

THE GOSPEL

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ. Jesus died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, he was buried, and he was resurrected from the dead on the third day. Despised and rejected by men, Jesus was crucified on a cross and served as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of his people. His resurrection proves that even sin and death could not have victory Him. We believe that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus are historical events and apart from these events, mankind could not experience freedom from their sin.

(Isaiah 53:3-6; Matthew 26:2, 28:6; Mark 10:45; Luke 22:69; John 10:18, 19:30, 40-41; Acts 1:3, 2:23, 5:31; Romans 4:25; 8:34; I Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-20; II Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 4:15)

SALVATION

We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ obtains and secures salvation for all those who trust in Him. Jesus – fully God and fully man – was the only perfect sacrifice to appease the wrath of God directed at humanity. Jesus lived a sinless life, yet took on the sins of the world when he went to the cross. All who believe in Jesus and follow him by faith are no longer found guilty of their sin. Instead, Christ imputes to them his own righteousness and all the benefits of Christ are bestowed upon them. The atonement of Christ for sin warrants and urges a universal offering of the gospel to all persons. There is no other way for mankind to be reconciled to God.

(John 1:29, 3:16, 6:37; Acts 13:38; Romans 3:21-26, 5:6, 9, 18-19; 8:1-3, 34; 14:9; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:14, 17-21; Galatians 2:21; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 3:9; Colossians 1:14, 2:13-14; I Peter 2:24, 3:18)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church consists of all who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for their eternal salvation and is the spiritual body of Christ. This includes all the redeemed of the ages – believers from among all peoples from every tribe, tongue, and nation. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, who is His body. We believe that the ultimate purpose of the Church is to glorify God. While the Church universal is made up of all Christians, expressions of the universal Church are found in local churches who gather to hear the Word of God proclaimed, engage in corporate worship, practice baptism and the Lord’s Supper, build up one another’s faith, hold each other accountable, exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and engage in evangelism in the faith and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The Church is the means by which God has ordained that the mission of God moves forward throughout the world. Its only proper offices are Elders and Deacons.

(Matthew 5:14-16, 16:15-19, 28:18-20; Luke 14:13-14; Acts 2:41-47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:17-32; Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 3:16; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12:1-31; Galatians 2:10, 6:1; Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:1-13; 4:14; Titus 1:5-9; James 5:19-20; I Peter 5:1-4)

BAPTISM AND THE LORD’S SUPPER

We believe that baptism is the immersion of a Christian in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Those who have repented of sin and come to faith in Jesus express their union with Him in His death and resurrection through baptism. It is an act of outward obedience symbolizing the believer’s faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

We believe that the Lord’s Supper is an act of worship in which believers eat bread and drink of the cup, signifying Christ’s body broken and His blood shed for His people. Believers partake of the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus, proclaiming His death until He returns. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are significant expressions of salvation, worship, and submission to God for the believer.

(Matthew 3:6; 28:19; Luke 22:14-20; John 3:23; 6:53-63; Acts 2:38; 8:36-39; 18:8; Romans 6:3-4; I Corinthians 10:16-17, 21; 11:17-34; 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:12; Hebrews 10:22; I Peter 3:21)

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

We believe that the commission given by Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations is bound to His Church to the end of the age. Evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the call of sinners to repent and believe in Him. We make disciples by proclaiming this gospel message, baptizing believers, and teaching them to obey the commands of Jesus in order that they might look more like Him.

(Psalm 67; Matthew 11:29-30; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 9:23-24; John 4:23; Acts 1:8; 20:27; Romans 1:5; 15:8-11; II Corinthians 3:18; I Peter 2:9; Revelation 5:9; 22:17)

HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe that Heaven is a real place prepared by God for those who have been saved by grace through the shed blood of Christ. We believe that Hell is a real place of eternal suffering for those whose names are not written in the book of life. There is no intermediate state in which the unsaved can atone for his or her own sins.

(Matthew 3:12; 19:29; 25:23, 46; Luke 16:19-31; 23:43; John 3:16; 14:1-6; Romans 1:18; 6:23; II Corinthians 5:1-10; Ephesians 2:6-7; Philippians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:9; Hebrews 12:22-23; Jude 24-25; Revelation 14:11; 20:11-15)

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe that at the end of the age Jesus Christ will return both personally and visibly, in power and in glory. He will return to exercise His role as final Judge, to consummate His kingdom, and to gather His Church. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy of the righteous, and the eternal punishment of the unredeemed.

(Matthew 24:31; Mark 14:61-62; Luke 21:27; 22:28-30; 24:39-42; Acts 1:9-11; I Corinthians 15:19-24; Philippians 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; 5:2-3; II Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15)

FINAL AUTHORITY FOR MATTERS OF BELIEF AND CONDUCT

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. It is the definitive and authoritative revelation of God and thus serves as the primary and final source of all that Providence Road believes. Providence Road strives to be a church that follows the Bible in both belief and action. God's Word is to govern all the affairs, decisions, and activities of Providence Road. His Word must serve as the ultimate authority over all things, including such things as administration, church finances, church discipline, church life, and all matters pertaining to faith and practice. For purposes of Providence Road's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elders serve as Providence Road's final interpretive authority regarding the Bible's message, meaning, and application.

(Acts 17:11; 20:27; Ephesians 4:4-6; I Timothy 6:3-5)

ADHERENCE TO THIS STATEMENT

We do not believe that all things in this statement of faith are of equal weight, some being more essential, some less. We do not believe that every part of this statement must be



believed in order for one to be saved.

In order to preserve the function and integrity of Providence Road as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Providence Road members and to the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Providence Road in any capacity, or who serves as elders, deacons, leaders, and members should abide by and agree to this Statement of Faith in its entirety and conduct themselves accordingly.

(Psalm 1; 9:10; 119; Matthew 5:16; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 5:1-3; Philippians 2:14-16; I Thessalonians 5:22)