

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Preface

From the days of the Apostles, Christians have summarized their foundational doctrinal beliefs in brief statements to articulate their unity and guard the church against error. Our Statement of Faith seeks to continue this historic practice. It is not an exhaustive document but seeks to summarize the central doctrines in which we are united. Whereas all are welcome to attend our worship gatherings, members of Hudson Avenue Community Church are responsible before God and one another to affirm and live in accordance with these truths.

We believe that the distinguishing mark of all Christians is single-minded love for God that is reflected in selfless love and respect for all people who bear his image. Without this love of God and neighbor, adherence to any Statement of Faith rings hollow and is of no eternal value.

Scriptures

Of the Scriptures: We believe the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, only infallible, and authoritative revelation of God and is intended to be the supreme standard for faith and life.

God

Of the Essence and Character of God: We believe there is only one holy, living, and triune God, limitless in power, knowledge, presence, and perfection. He is the source and essence of reality and is eternally existent within himself. He is unchanging, free, and sovereign over all that is. He is gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abounding in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. He rewards those who seek him, is terrifying in his judgments, hates all sin, will eternally judge the guilty, and make all things new.

Of the Trinity: We believe this one God eternally exists in three coequal, coeternal persons who are of one substance and power, lacking nothing and creating everything from the overflow of eternal communion.

Of the Father: We believe in God the Father, the eternally unbegotten source of all being, worthy of all praise, glory, love, and allegiance.

Of the Son: We believe in God the Son who is eternally begotten of the Father. We believe in his incarnational humiliation, virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, vicarious and atoning death, bodily resurrection, glorious ascension, continual intercession, and

imminent personal return in power and glory to judge the living and the dead and make all things new.

Of the Holy Spirit: We believe in God the Holy Spirit, eternally proceeding from and sharing in the joyful communion of the Father and Son. He is sent from God to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, to reconcile people to God by exalting Christ and giving spiritual sight to sinners that they might see and savor the person and work of Jesus. Upon the sight of regeneration, the Holy Spirit seals, sanctifies, and empowers all Christians to live in step with the gospel.

Creation

Of Creation: We believe the one triune God created all things out of nothing from the overflow of his eternal communion; thus, all creation reveals God's invisible attributes and divine nature.

Of Humanity: We believe humanity was created by God, in the image of God in a state of holiness and innocence; to glorify God by living in unbroken communion with their Creator and fellow creatures, by reflecting God's glad dominion by exercising wise stewardship over the whole of creation, by reflecting the praise of creation back to God in worship, and by finding eternal joy in God alone. Therefore, all human life shall be honored, cherished, and protected from the moment of fertilization to natural death.

Of Gender, Marriage, and Procreation: We believe God created humanity male and female - two distinct, unchangeable, and complementary genders - equal in dignity, value, and worth; that God ordained the covenant of marriage to freely bind one man and one woman together as one flesh and thereby reflect his communal oneness and covenantal communion with his people. In love, he ordained that human life would proceed from the overflow of that sacred union.

Sin

Of Sin: We believe that through the voluntary act of the will, humanity broke the expressed law of God and fell from their state of holiness and innocence, thus bringing upon themselves the just wrath of God. Since all of creation was under human stewardship, all creation was dramatically impacted by humanity's rebellion against its Creator.

Salvation

Of Salvation and the Gospel: We believe that the salvation of sinners and the ultimate restoration of God's good creation is entirely of grace, which is received through faith in the mediatorial work of the eternal Son of God, who, by the sovereign

and eternal will of the Father, freely and completely joined himself to humanity without dilution and without sin. In his incarnational life, he honored God's law in perfect obedience, and in his substitutionary death, he atoned for the sins of his people; he was then raised from the dead and enthroned in heaven, where he intercedes on behalf of his people until the day when he will return to judge the living and the dead and make all things new. In Christ, divine perfection and human sympathy intertwine that he might truly intercede between God and his people as their sympathetic High Priest and covenantal head. Therefore, Christ alone is perfectly qualified to be the one satisfactory, compassionate, and completely sufficient Savior for sinners.

Of Justification and Union with Christ: We believe that when an individual trusts the substitutionary work of Jesus by faith alone, that person is united to Christ and justified before God, who pardons all his or her sin and freely gives the promise of eternal life based upon the imputed righteousness of Christ.

Of the Freeness of Salvation and the Costly Nature of Grace: We believe that the blessings of salvation are freely given to all who repent of sin and trust in Christ alone. This saving grace was purchased by the bloody sacrifice of the Son of God on behalf of his people and is therefore of infinite value. This extravagant and empowering grace regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners in a way that is completely consistent with free human agency.

Of the Gift of Regeneration: We believe in the necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation. This supernatural work occurs as the Spirit opens the eyes of our hearts to see and understand the truth of the gospel and thus changes our will to voluntarily believe and obey it.

Of Faith that Acts in Repentance: We believe that faith and repentance are necessary evidence of regeneration, the duty of every Christian, and inseparable gifts of God's grace brought about by the supernatural work of the Spirit of God.

Of the Unity of the Law and the Gospel: We believe that the law of God is eternal, unchanging, and altogether good; it reveals the character of God, the fallen condition of all he made, humanity's desperate need for a Savior, and what a truly blessed life looks like. In this way, the law of God leads God's people to believe the gospel in which is found salvation and perfect righteousness in Christ, so that they may grow in glad obedience to God.

Church

Of the Church: We believe that the Church of God is comprised of people from all time who have been saved by the grace of God through faith in his self-revelation; this universal Church is made visible in local assemblies of baptized believers, freely

bound to one another by a common covenant, and unified by faith and fellowship in the gospel; observing together the ordinances given by Christ; submitting to his Word; exercising the gifts and privileges given to them by his Spirit; and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper: We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as a public witness to his or her union with God in Christ and his or her union with Christ's Church. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the meal in which the local church, by the holy use of ordinary bread and wine, commemorates the Lord's substitutionary death, celebrates the unity they share in Christ, and anticipates his glorious return.

Civil Government

Of Civil Government: We believe that civil governments are appointed by God for the ordered good and protection of human societies. All those in authority are to be prayed for, honored, and obeyed as an act of faith in the providential wisdom of God; except when obedience would require one to oppose the will of the Lord Jesus Christ as expressed in Scripture, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the eternal King to whom all human authorities must give an account.

Last Things

Of the Return of Jesus and the New Creation: We believe in the imminent and personal return of Christ, the perfect and eternal judgement of God, the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost, and the restoration of all creation to a state of eternal goodness.

Of the Resurrection to Life and Death: Those who stand justified in the righteousness of Christ alone will be raised to eternal life; those who continue in unrepentance and unbelief stand condemned because of sin and the insufficiency of their self-righteousness and will be raised to eternal damnation, which is the second death.

Note: Hudson Avenue Community Church cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention for domestic and foreign church planting and is in theological alignment with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.