

Community Fellowship

260 Benton Station Road Benton, TN 37307

www.cfofpc.com

Declaration of Church Values

This church and its pastors and staff hold solemnly to the following statements as their beliefs and values as aligned with the Holy Word of our Father, written down in the inspired Word of God.

Foundation of What We Believe and are Undisputable

1. God Is - "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deut 6:4-5
 - a. Only one true and living God exists.
 - b. He is the Creator of the universe, eternally existing in three Persons - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each equally deserving of humanity's worship and obedience.
 - c. He is infinite and perfect in all His attributes.

2. Jesus is God and Savior - "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." Heb 1:3
 - a. Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
 - b. He is Christ, the Son of God
 - c. Born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life and performed many miracles.
 - d. He died on the cross to provide people forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation.
 - e. Jesus rose from the dead, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return in power and glory.

3. The Holy Spirit is God. Giver of Gifts and Empowerer - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8
 - a. The Holy Spirit is supernatural and sovereign, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ.
 - b. He lives within every Christian beginning at the moment of salvation, gifts every individual with a spiritual gift and then empowers them for bold witness and effective service in the church as they yield to Him.
 - c. The Holy Spirit convicts individuals of sin, uses God's Word to mature believers into Christlikeness, and secures them until Christ returns.

4. The Bible is God's Word - "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for

reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2Timothy 3:16-17

- a. The Bible is God's written revelation to people, divinely given through human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- b. It is entirely true. The Bible is totally sufficient and completely authoritative for matters of life and faith.
- c. The goal of God's Word is the restoration of humanity into His image.

5. People are God's Treasure - "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Genesis 1:26

- a. God created people in His image for His glory. They are the crowning work of His Creation.
- b. Yet every person has willfully disobeyed God - an act known as sin - thus inheriting both physical and spiritual death and the need for salvation.
- c. All human beings are born with a sin nature and into an environment inclined toward sin. Only by the grace of God through Jesus Christ can they experience salvation.

6. Salvation is by Grace and Through Faith Alone - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result or works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

- a. All human beings are born with a sin nature, separated from God and in need of a Savior.
- b. This salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ and not on the basis of human works.
- c. That salvation comes only through a faith relationship with Jesus Christ, the Savior, as a person repents of sin and receives Christ's forgiveness and eternal life.
- d. Salvation is instantaneous and accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.
- e. All the redeemed are secure in Christ forever.

7. The Future is in God's Hands - "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him." Hebrews 9:27-28

- a. God will bring the world to its appropriate end in His own time and in His own way.
- b. At that time, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth.
- c. Both the saved and the unsaved will be resurrected physically to be judged by Christ.
- d. Those who have trust in Christ will receive their reward and dwell forever in heaven with the Lord. Those who have refused Christ will spend eternity in hell, the place of everlasting punishment.
- e. The certain return of Christ motivates believers to be faithful in their daily lives.

8. The Church is God's Plan - "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common." Acts 2:42-44

- a. The Holy Spirit immediately places all people who put their faith in Jesus Christ into one united spiritual body, the Church, of which Christ is the head.
- b. The primary expression of the Church on earth is in autonomous local congregations of baptized believers.
- c. The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by taking the gospel to the entire world and

by building its members in Christlikeness through the instruction of God's Word, fellowship, service, worship, and prayer.
Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved. Proverbs 16:3

Existence and Mission

1. We exist to be a Bible-driven, Spirit-led church where worship lifts up God, the teaching of the Word challenges people, the Holy Spirit impacts our lives daily, and the fellowship encourages everyone to live in obedience. Challenging followers of Christ to love God, love people, and serve both.
2. One of our main goals is to keep things simple and return to what a church is supposed to be. Our body is summed up in two simple mission statements:
 - a. real people. real life. real Jesus.
 - b. love God. love people. serve both.

Definitions of Ceremonies and Observances

The following listed items are in concern to ceremonies and observances that we practice as a church. This church and its leaders agree that these be defined in the following manner:

1. Baptism - an ordinance of the Lord to be done as an outward expression of an inward spiritual movement. Full submersion of the body shows the picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. (Acts 2)
2. Lord's Supper - an ordinance of the Lord to be done as often as we will in remembrance of Jesus. The bread representing the body broken for us and the juice representing His blood that was shed for the remission of sins. (Luke 22)
3. Foot Washing - ceremony done by this body as given by the example of Christ as He washed the disciple's feet. The washing of the feet is a reminder of a servant's heart for all leaders. (John 13)
4. Commissioning - ceremony done by this body to pray over and lay hands on individuals who we are sending out to do the work of the Lord. (Acts 6)
5. Fasting - individual and church - wide times of giving up of something in order to seek the Lord and His will. (Matthew 6)
6. Baby Dedication - ceremony done by this body for a family to give their child back to the Lord in the way they are raised and taught. (Luke 2:22)
7. Weddings - ceremony done by this body between 2 people unifying them in Holy Matrimony in front of God. Since this body has adopted the Bible as the backbone of the church, marriage is viewed as between one woman and one man. (Genesis 3)
8. Other Special Events Held on/in church property (i.e. Baby showers, birthday parties) - will fall under the same values and beliefs given to us by the Father. If not directly stated in this document, church leadership will address all concerns and issues accordingly
Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved. Proverbs 16:3

Definitions of Ministry Positions

The following positions are deemed necessary as the Lord allows for the proper function of the leadership of the body.

1. Pastor - is the shepherd of this flock. He is entrusted and appointed by God to lead this body in all aspects. All leadership works with the pastor to accomplish the church's vision and mission.
2. Associate Pastor - is entrusted by God to help the pastor by teaching His Word, loving the body, and pursuing God.
3. Youth Ministry Team Leader - is the leader of the Youth Ministry Team and is entrusted by God to lead students to a growing relationship with Christ.
4. Kids Ministry Team Leader - is the leader of the Kids Ministry Team and is entrusted by God to lead students to a growing relationship with Christ.
5. Worship Team Leader - is the leader of the Worship Team and is entrusted by God to guide the body in worship in Spirit and in Truth.
6. Production Team Leader - is the leader of the Production Team and is entrusted by God to manage all sound, video, and lights for services.
7. Events Team Leader - is the leader of the Events Team and is entrusted by God to lead all Community and Fellowship events.
8. Financial Team Leader - is the leader of the Financial Team and is entrusted by God to handle the church finances and budgets.
9. Administrative Team Leader - is the leader of the Administrative Team and is entrusted by God to handle the church guidelines and records.
10. Emergency & Security Team Leader - is the leader of the Emergency & Security Team and is entrusted by God to prepare and handle the safety of the body.
11. Buildings & Grounds Team Leader - is the leader of the Buildings & Grounds Team and is entrusted by God to make sure the interior and exterior church facilities are taken care of.
12. 50+ Team Leader - is the leader of the 50+ Team and is entrusted by God to ensure they spend time together in fellowship regularly.

*Further description of these leadership positions and their roles can be found in the Guidelines for each position.

**If the body has an issue with any part of leadership, it is to be addressed in the manner outlined in Scripture in Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 5

Membership and Voting

1. Membership - as of the writing of this document; membership was not seen as needed by this Body.
2. Voting - this body could not see where voting is scriptural. It was also concluded that all things are to be discussed openly with the leadership team and body.

Controversial Topics

Over the years, there has been a lot of discussion about topics that seem “controversial” to us as people. These topics include many things such as alcohol, tattoos, sex, drugs, spiritual matters, etc. As a church body, we adhere to the teachings found in Romans 14 that each one of us will give an account of himself to God and that all believers should walk in accordance to His love when discussing these or correcting each other.