

New Life Community Church's Statement of Faith

1. We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect, all-knowing, holy, and eternally existing in three persons -- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that God not only created the world but also now upholds, sustains, governs and providentially directs all that exists and that He will bring all things to their proper consummation in Christ Jesus to the glory of His name. (Genesis 1:1;; Psalm 104 & 139 ; Matthew 10:29-31 & 28:19; Acts 17:24-28; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:9-12 & 4:4-6; Colossians 1:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6)
2. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man ,conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life and gave His life as an atoning sacrifice for our sins by dying on a cross. He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father, as our High Priest and Advocate. His death and resurrection is the basis for salvation. Whoever confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart that God raised Him from the dead are born of the Holy Spirit and are children of God. (Isaiah 7:14 & 53:4-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-18 & 3:16; Romans 8:34 & 10:9-19; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:10-14; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 1:15-23; Hebrews 7:25, 9:13-15, 10:19; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 1 John 2:1-2 & 4:10)
3. We believe in the Holy Spirit, a gift from God, Who dwells with us, guides, convicts, regenerates, instructs, and empowers the believer for Godly living and service. Following conversion, the Spirit desires to continuously fill, empower and anoint believers for ministry and witness. We also believe that all the gifts of the Spirit described in the New Testament, are operative today and are designed to accompany and authenticate the Gospel, and to empower and edify the church to fulfill its calling and mission. (Matthew 3:11, John 1:12-13, 14:16-26, 16:7-11; Acts 4:29-30; Romans 8:9 & 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 3:1-5; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, 5:18)
4. We believe the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written, to be the verbally inspired infallible Word of God and the product of Holy Spirit-controlled authors. Therefore, it is truth without error in the original writings. We believe the Bible is the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of humankind, and it is the final authority for what we believe and how we should live. We hold to a covenantal understanding of scripture; that between both testaments and throughout all ages of history there is one covenant of grace revealed and applicable to God and His people. It may take different forms in different periods of biblical history, for instance, the covenants of Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and Christ. But the one promise that is repeated throughout is "I will be your God and you shall be my people." (Psalm 119:89, 105; Matthew 5:18; John 17:17; 2

Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21;)

5. We believe that humankind was created in the image and likeness of God. The first man, Adam, was created righteous and moral, but fell into sin. Through Adam the human race fell and inherited a sinful nature. Mankind is therefore spiritually dead, separated from God, and unable to remedy this lost condition on their own. (Genesis 1:26-27 & 3:1-24; Psalms 51:5; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12)
6. We believe that salvation is a free gift, by God's grace, received by placing faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that in salvation there is complete forgiveness of sin and the unmerited gift of eternal life. This saving grace of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also sanctifies us by enabling us to do what is pleasing in God's sight in order that we might be progressively conformed to the image of Christ. We trust the sovereignty of God in our Calling - Our salvation, from beginning to end, is God's work. God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world and will bring that good work in us to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. We respond to God's calling of us by the Holy Spirit, not by our own ingenuity. We believe that justification is by Grace through Faith and that out of no merit of our own do we receive salvation, but only through the atoning and loving work of Christ on the cross. Even faith is a gift and through it we are awakened to a life of service and good works. (Acts 16:30-31; Ephesians 1:4, 13-14, 2:8-9; Romans 8:30; Titus 3:5-7; 1 John 1:7-9)
7. We believe that all true believers who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ are assured of their salvation. (John 3:16; Romans 8:1-2, 35-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:1; Jude 1)
8. We believe in the personality and reality of Satan. Originally he was a good angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven with a multitude of other angels. He is the originator of sin and is ceaselessly and ruthlessly attempting to destroy God's church and thwart God's plan for the world. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross of Christ and will, at the end of the age, be cast forever into the lake of fire which has been prepared for him and his angels (Genesis 3:1; Job 1:6, 2:7; Matthew 12:25-29 & 25:41; Mark 4:15; John 10:10 and 16:11; Ephesians 6:10-20; Revelation 12:7-9 & 20:10)
9. We believe that the local church exists to help people know and glorify God, to make believers mature in their faith, to empower and unleash all believers in the church for the work of the ministry. (Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 2:19-20, 5:25-27; 1 Peter 2:9)
10. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two sacraments of the church to be observed until the time of Christ's return. They are not a means of salvation but are a sign and seal of God's sanctifying grace and blessing to the faithful in Christ Jesus (Mt 26:26-29, 28:19; Rom 6:3-11; 1 Corinthians

11:23-34; 1 Pt 3:21).

11. We believe in the equality and essential dignity of men and women of all races and classes. We recognize that all persons are made in the image of God and are to reflect that image in the community of believers, in the home and in society. We believe in the family, celibate singleness and faithful heterosexual marriage as the patterns God designed for us (Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 19:4-5; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 25-40; Ephesians 5:31-32; Galatians 3:26-29).
12. We believe that when the Christian dies he/she passes immediately into the blessed presence of Christ, there to enjoy conscious fellowship with the Savior until the day of the resurrection and glorious transformation of the body. The saved will then forever dwell in fellowship with their great Triune God. We also believe that when the unbeliever dies he/she is consigned to Hades, there to await the Day of Judgment when he/she shall be punished with eternal separation from the presence of God (Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; John 5:25-29; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:19-26, 3:20-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-22:5).
13. We believe that Jesus Christ will return, in bodily form, and take His people to himself to spend eternity in heaven. We believe His return is imminent and thus gives hope to all believers. (Mark 13:26; Acts 1:11; John 14:1-6; Philippians 3:20; Revelation 1:4-8)

Christian Unity: New Life Community Church, is a part of a denomination of churches affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. The basic doctrinal beliefs of the Reformed Church in America can be viewed online at <http://www.rca.org/> and are summarized in the historic Orthodox Christian creeds ([Apostle's](#), [Nicene](#), and [Athanasian](#)) and confessions ([Heidelberg Catechism](#), [Belgic Confession](#), [Canons of Dort](#), [Belhar Confession](#)).

While denominational ties and a shared theology can be very important to a local church's identity, the call to be in mission partnership with the Holy Spirit is the highest value in proclaiming the lordship of Jesus Christ to a fallen, broken yet valuable world. In light of this value, as New Life humbly identifies with and stands in its historical and theological heritage, but also invites participation and membership of people who come from other orthodox Christian traditions. God has called us to bear witness to the sure foundations of the faith, but not to break fellowship with other Christians who hold slightly different understandings. In the words of Martin Luther: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity". In Essentials – Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.")

In Non-essentials – Liberty (Romans 14: 1, 4, 12 "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. Who are you to judge someone else's

servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.") In All Things - Charity (I Corinthians 13:2 "If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."). What this means practically, without compromising the truth of Scripture, is as follows:

- Anyone who comes from an orthodox Christian tradition, who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord, is welcome to participate in the mission and membership of New Life Community Church.
- On any teaching that is non-essential to salvation, anyone who holds a viable orthodox Christian interpretation that differs from the historic Reformed interpretation of that teaching is welcome to participate in the mission and membership of New Life Community Church.