

## Statement of Faith – The River Church

### **GOD**

WE BELIEVE in one God who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### *God the Father*

WE BELIEVE God the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and full of love for humanity.

#### *God the Son*

WE BELIEVE the Lord Jesus Christ is the one and only eternal Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death on the cross, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven. He is now exalted at the right hand of God. On the last day, He will come again to judge the world and to reign as Lord of all. He now dwells in all believers through the Holy Spirit as the living and ever-present Lord.

#### *God the Holy Spirit*

WE BELIEVE the Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of Life, our Comforter, sent by Jesus to indwell believers through faith assuring us of salvation, giving spiritual gifts to grow the Body of Christ, leading believers into an ever-growing understanding of truth, convicting humanity of its sin, and regenerating every believer. He empowers believers to witness and remain faithful to Christ.

## **GOD'S WORD**

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture so that the Bible is without error in the original manuscripts. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are completely trustworthy and shall remain our final and absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

## **THE HUMAN CONDITION**

WE BELIEVE that God created all of humanity in His image to worship Him and to have fellowship with Him, but all of humanity became alienated from Him through their sinful disobedience. As a result, humans are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through their own effort alone and are destined to eternal separation from God.

## **SALVATION**

WE BELIEVE that God so loved the whole world that He sent His only beloved Son to be the atoning sacrifice for sin once and for all. WE BELIEVE the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture. All who believe in Him are saved on the ground of His shed blood. We sinners are justified by the grace of God through faith alone. If we confess our sins He is faithful and just, will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST**

WE BELIEVE in the one holy Christian Church. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and form the living Body of Christ, of which Jesus is the head and of which we are all members. The church exists to

worship God, to evangelize the lost, to serve others, to disciple believers, and to fellowship with one another. Along with the Church Triumphant, the Church on Earth will continue to seek the Lordship of Jesus until He comes again.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ gave two sacraments to the church: Baptism and the Holy Communion (Lord's Supper). Sacraments are an outward sign of an invisible grace. These gifts from God are for the people of God to affirm our spiritual unity and strengthen our faith personally and corporately. Both sacraments are available to believers.