

# CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

We present the following statements as representative and not exhaustive, with the aim of providing **clarity** to our identity as a congregation and presenting biblical **context** for our relationship with God. We do so with all humility and reverence, recognizing that we are God's work in progress and it is by his grace that we continue to grow into the people that he wants us to be.

Our beliefs are shaped by our Restoration Movement heritage that seeks to bring emphasis on God's word, the Bible, by rejecting human religious authority and denominational hierarchies in favour of the believer's freedom to obey and to conduct their lives after the gospel of Christ. Please note that this heritage is not the object of our trust and allegiance (God is!); however, we believe that it allows us to adhere more closely to God's will as revealed in the Bible.

These beliefs inform our mission (the reason for our existence) and our vision (the future that we hope for in God's kingdom) in Jesus Christ. As you form a clearer picture of who we are as a congregation, it is our hope that you would want to be a part of our family that seeks to humbly glorify God in everything that we do.

### GOD

God is the sovereign creator, ruler, and sustainer of the universe ([Genesis 1:1](#); [1 Chronicles 29:11-12](#)). He is the one and only true God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ([Genesis 1:26](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [Matthew 28:19](#)). God loves the world and desires to restore his creation to himself through Jesus, as he originally intended at creation ([Colossians 1:19-20](#); [Ephesians 1:4-5](#); [John 3:16](#)). To this end, he longs to have a relationship and partnership with us not only as his people, but as his children. ([1 John 1:3](#); [1 John 3:1](#); [Jeremiah 30:22](#); [Revelation 21:3](#)).

### JESUS

Jesus is the promised Messiah: the Christ, Anointed One, Saviour, and King ([Isaiah 7:14](#); [John 1:41](#); [1 Peter 1:18-20](#)). He is God the Son, who came to earth as a human being to provide the only way through which human redemption could occur ([Philippians 2:5-11](#); [John 14:6](#)). Through his life, death, and resurrection, he has made salvation possible for everyone who believes ([1 Timothy 2:5](#); [John 3:16](#)). God the Father has glorified Jesus by giving him all authority in heaven and on earth, sitting at the right hand of God in heaven as our High Priest, Advocate, and Head of the church ([Matthew 28:18](#); [Hebrew 4:14-16](#); [Romans 8:34](#); [Ephesians 1:22](#); [1 John 2:1](#)).

## **HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is the source of life, promised to those who believe and are baptized into newness of life ([Acts 2:38](#); [Romans 8:10-11](#);). The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force ([John 16:7-11](#)). He actively works in the world, convicting people of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come. The Holy Spirit is also instrumental in the believer's growth and sanctification, manifesting through the believer the fruit of the Holy Spirit ([Romans 15:16](#); [1 Corinthians 12:4](#); [Galatians 5:22-23](#)). The Holy Spirit acts as God's seal of ownership and guarantee of our eternal hope in Jesus ([Ephesians 1:13-14](#)).

## **BIBLE**

The Bible is God's inspired and infallible word and is the authority for the faith and practice of God's people ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [Psalms 19:7](#)). Within the Old and New Testament scriptures, God has revealed his character, his will, and work in creation. The bible reveals the story of God's faithful pursuit of relationship with people and his redemptive love through Jesus Christ, the central figure of the Bible ([Genesis 3:15](#), [Romans 10:17](#)).

## **HUMAN BEINGS**

Because God is love, he created all things out of love and made men and women in his image, so that we could enjoy a loving relationship with him and with each other ([1 John 4:7-8](#); [John 13:34](#)). Human beings exist to bring glory to God by being bearers of God's glory in obedience and partnership with him ([Ecclesiastes 12:13](#); [Isaiah 43:7](#); [Jeremiah 30:22](#); [John 15:4-5](#); [1 Corinthians 3:9](#); [2 Corinthians 6:1](#)).

## **SIN**

When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve by way of Satan's influence, our relationship with God was severed ([Romans 5:12](#)). Sin has rendered all human beings spiritually dead, separated from God ([Isaiah 59:2](#); [Romans 3:23](#)). Without God, we are inclined toward sin and self-rule ([Galatians 5:17](#); [Psalms 14:1](#)). Those who are stained by sin cannot dwell in an eternal relationship with God ([Ps 5:4](#)) and therefore, sin is humanity's greatest problem because it dooms sinners to eternal separation from Him ([Psalm 1:5](#), [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#), [Galatians 5:19-20](#)). On their own, human beings are powerless to do anything to solve their greatest problem. ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Romans 5:6](#), [6:23](#)).

## **GOSPEL**

Out of his great love for the world, God desires to restore all creation to himself as we see in his story unfolding in the Old and New Testaments, culminating in Jesus' mission to seek and to save the lost ([Luke 19:10](#)). The gospel is God's good news of salvation,

the restoration of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ ([Romans 1:16](#); [2 Corinthians 5:18-20](#)). King Jesus came to earth and took on human flesh, becoming the perfect sacrifice to redeem humanity ([Romans 5:8](#), [Hebrews 9:14-15](#)). Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection provided the only way for the restoration of God's creation in relationship with him ([Romans 6:3-4](#)).

## SALVATION

God calls all human beings into a covenant relationship with him, desiring all to be saved and be counted as his people and for him to be their God ([Jeremiah 30:22](#); [Revelation 21:3](#)). The gospel of Jesus Christ is God's power unto salvation, and Scriptures reveal the appropriate response to the gospel, which involves five necessary and interrelated elements. One must **believe** that Jesus is the Christ and that his work on the cross was God's gift to mankind and is all-sufficient for salvation ([Acts 16:31](#); [1 John 5:1](#); [Hebrews 10:14](#)). This is closely followed by obedient **faith**, which is belief in action ([Hebrews 11:1](#); [James 2:14-18](#)). This active faith leads one to **repent**, which is an expression of godly sorrow that enables one to turn from sin toward God ([Acts 2:38](#); [2 Corinthians 7:10](#)), to **confess** the lordship of Jesus ([Romans 10:9](#)), and to identify with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection through **baptism** ([Romans 6:3-4](#)). This saving relationship brings peace with God in this life, and the assurance of his gift of life for all eternity ([John 5:24](#), [Romans 5:1-2](#))

## BAPTISM

Baptism is demonstrated in the New Testament to be the way in which an individual expresses their decision to die to a life of sin and be raised to begin a new life, lead by, and patterned after Jesus Christ ([Romans 6:3-4](#); [Colossians 2:12](#)). Baptism, as taught by the apostles in the Scriptures and practiced by the early church, is immersion in water with the purpose of initiating the saving relationship between Jesus and the individual ([1 Peter 3:21](#); [Acts 8:12](#)), admitting him or her into the church ([John 3:5](#)), marking the point at which sins are forgiven and the Holy Spirit indwells the individual ([Acts 2:38](#), [22:16](#), [Colossians 2:12-14](#)). Baptism is for those with repentant faith and therefore not for infants ([Mark 16:15-16](#)).

## THE CHURCH

The church is God's family, consisting of all true believers in Jesus Christ ([Acts 2:47](#); [1 Timothy 3:15](#); [Galatians 3:26-27](#)). Just like his desired purpose for his chosen people in the Old Testament, the Israelites, the church is now the assembly of God's people in the New Testament who are his light to the world. Jesus is the head, and he has called all people in his church to work together and build each other up as they contribute to his mission to bring God's truth, teaching, and salvation to the ends of the earth ([Isaiah 49:6](#); [Acts 13:47](#); [Philippians 2:14-16](#); [1 Timothy. 3:15](#); [Ephesians 4:15-16](#); [Matthew 28:20](#)).

## OUR HOPE IN JESUS

An appointed judgment day will come when Jesus Christ returns for his disciples ([Acts 17:31](#)). On this day, God will judge the living and the dead according to their deeds ([2 Timothy 4:1](#); [2 Corinthians 5:10](#); [Revelation 20:12](#)). Those who trust and follow Jesus by faith will not experience punishment for their sins and separation from God in hell ([Romans 8:1](#); [John 6:40](#)). Instead, they will join together with God in the renewal of all things in the completed kingdom. We will live together in the new heaven and new earth where they will glorify God and enjoy him forever ([Revelation 21:1-4](#)).

## OUR AFFIRMATIONS

**Concerning sexuality and marriage.** We affirm that God made human beings as man and woman ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)). We affirm that marriage and sex are designed by God to be enjoyed between one man and one woman within the context of a life-long commitment, as God has ordained from creation ([Genesis 2:18-24](#); [Matthew 5:32](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#)).

**Concerning the value of life.** We affirm that life begins at conception ([Jeremiah 1:5](#); [Psalm 139:13, 16](#)) and ends at natural death ([1 Samuel 2:6](#); [Psalm 90:3](#); [Deuteronomy 5:17, 32:9](#)), and that every person is valuable because he or she has been created by God and therefore bears God's image ([Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6](#); [Exodus 20:13](#); [Psalm 139:13](#)).

## OUR MISSION (Why we exist)

### “Grow disciples who make disciples”

Inspired by the above-mentioned beliefs and affirmations about God and his movement in the world, we long to be the people of mission that God intended for his church to become. The church's mission is God's biblically derived, non-negotiable, universal imperative for his people. Because God calls all people to join him in his work of restoring his creation to himself, Central church exists to carry out Jesus' mission to make and mature disciples for the glory of God. God's plan is to save and restore humanity to himself for his glory through Jesus' work on the cross ([Ephesians 1:10-12](#)). For this reason, we wholeheartedly believe that this is also our purpose and ultimate goal according to Jesus Christ himself ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). In other words, everything that we do seeks to mature our individual members so that they too can share in the mission of Jesus to bring others in a saving relationship with God ([Colossians 1:28](#); [Matthew 4:19](#)).

## OUR VISION

(Where we are going/What inspires us)

“Share the love and good news of Jesus to every person in Winnipeg and beyond.”

The church’s vision is a realistic, credible, attractive future that Central church of Christ yearns for God to bring about as we participate in his mission to restore humanity to himself. As every member of our church family becomes spiritually mature in Jesus, we trust God to do his work through us as we, individually and collectively, share the love of Jesus to every person on earth. We will begin with those who are closest to us - our own families and friends - and then our local community, so that every person we encounter has the opportunity to choose to give their lives to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, as is the will of God for every person from every nation, tribe, and language ([2 Peter 3:9](#); [Revelation 7:9](#)). We believe that God the Father through Jesus Christ his Son, will empower us by the Holy Spirit to become the salt and light that he wants us to be for this world, maturing us into becoming “fishers of men and women” as instruments of his salvation ([Matthew 4:19](#); [5:13-16](#)).

## OUR CORE VALUES

“Faithfully loving, serving, and growing in community”

At the heart of what we do are the following core values that can be summed up in the following motto: “Faithfully loving, serving, and growing in community.” These core values emphasize our beliefs and are the key ways in which we live out our mission and vision in Jesus Christ.

1. **Faithful obedience to Jesus and his word.** We strive to center our identity on Jesus and his gospel.
2. **Loving and serving as members of one family.** God has gathered us into his family as brothers and sisters where we manifest our love for God, for one another, to our local community, and to the world through service.

3. **Growing in community.** Obedience to Jesus, loving like him, and serving in his kingdom are the key elements of our discipleship, which can only be done effectively as we grow in relationship with God and with one another.

At the heart of our core values are these three key actions found within our motto that we strive to faithfully live out:



**Love. Serve. Grow.**

**LOVE.** The greatest commandment is love for God and for people ([Matthew 22:34-40](#)). We seek to obey this commandment on a weekly basis as we worship God on Sunday mornings and deepen our relationship with one another through small groups throughout the week. We invite you to join us.

Sunday Morning Worship | Small Groups

**SERVE.** Our goal is spiritual maturity ([Colossians 1:28-29](#)), demonstrated by following Jesus and becoming like him ([Galatians 2:20](#)). Jesus came to earth to serve and to give ([Matthew 20:28](#)) and so it is also our aim to serve and to give as Jesus did ([John 13:15](#)). Join us in using our God-given talents and gifts to serve and give to the community.

Ministry Teams | Local Outreach | Missions | Give

**GROW.** God calls us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” ([2 Peter 3:18](#)). We aim to faithfully live out this command by studying and living out God’s word in community. We invite you to join any of our small groups that meet regularly (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly) as well as our large group events (quarterly or annually):

Sunday morning Bible Study Classes | Young Couples and Families | Young Adults | Teens | 55+ Group | Small Groups | Celebrate Recovery | Women’s Groups | Men’s Groups | Annual Events