Statement of Faith Contract for teachers

The central theme of Riverlawn Christian Church is the continual imparting of the scripture to people so they may know God, accept His Son Jesus Christ as Savior and serve Him in worship and ministry. Below are some major truths of scripture in a simple and concise form. These are the primary doctrines of the Christian faith and reflect the heart of the teaching and preaching here at Riverlawn.

The Bible
We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God. It is divinely inspired and is the Truth, authority and guide to live by. (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12)

God
We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Jesus
We believe Jesus was born of a virgin in the image of God. He is the only Son of God and the Lord of all creation. He died for the sins of all people and bodily arose from the grave. He is fully God and fully man and will one day return. (Matthew 1:23; Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 2:14-18)

Creation
We believe “In the beginning God created”. God brought the universe, our world, and life into existence by His spoken word according to Genesis 1 & 2. (John 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3) We believe in a literal seven day creation.

Man
We believe that man was created in the image of, and for the purposes of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature. (Romans 3:23-26, 5:12; Ephesians 2:10)

Sin
The Bible defines sin as “missing the mark” of God’s standard. A good one word definition of sin is “disobedience”. The Bible says that “we all have sinned and fall short of God’s will for our lives.” (Romans 3:23)

Salvation
We believe as the Bible teaches, that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus, the Son of God (Ephesians 2:8,9). God has sent His Son as the sacrifice for our sin. Our response is to surrender to God and obey His commands. (John 3:16,17,36)

Baptism
We believe as the Bible teaches, that baptism is the immersion in water of an obedient believer. In the New Testament church every believer was commanded to be baptized. (Acts 2:36-41)

Baptism symbolizes the following:
- Cleansing and forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16); The new birth (John 3:5);
- Circumcision of the heart (Colossians 2:11-12);
- The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5).
Immersion in water is the only physical act that pictures the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Baptism is not an option for those who truly believe. We baptize because Jesus said to do it. It is a test of our true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15, 21)

**Eternal Security**

We believe the Bible teaches that once a person is saved they are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13) and are secure in Christ. The Bible teaches security in a person… Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “No one can snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:28)

The Bible does not teach unconditional security. The condition to our security is that we must be saved. Someone who claims to be saved yet lives a life of continual sin is like the person Paul warned Jude about in Jude 4: “They are godless men, who change the grace of God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” The person who lives like this is not saved and is living with a false security. (1 John 3:6; Romans 6:1; Hebrews 6:4-8). In Revelation 2:10 Jesus tells us to “be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

**The Holy Spirit**

We believe the Holy Spirit is the part of God that lives in us. The Holy Spirit is divine, eternal (Hebrews 9:14) and co-equal with the Father and the Son. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:2-6)

The Holy Spirit:
1. Convicts of sin (John 16:8-11)
2. Glorifies Jesus Christ (John 15:26)
3. Regenerates the unsaved (John 3:5-8)
4. Indwells the believer (John 14:16-18; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20)
5. Comforts the afflicted (John 14:16-18)
6. Equips the saints with at least one gift (Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12)
7. Sanctifies (Romans 15:16)
8. Unifies the body (Ephesians 4:3)
9. Assures us of our salvation (1 John 3:24)
10. Teaches us the Word of God (John 14:17,26)

We are encouraged to be led by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
The evidence of His presence in our lives will be the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

**Spiritual Gifts**

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to each believer for the accomplishment of the Lord’s purpose for the church (1 Corinthians 12:11; 14:26b; Matthew 28:18-20).

**The Lord’s Supper**

The Bible teaches that Jesus established two ordinances for believers: The Lord’s Supper (Communion) and Baptism. Only Christians who have carefully examined themselves should partake of this supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-32). The Bible does not set a prescribed time for observing this supper but we make it available each Sunday here at Riverlawn. (Acts 20:7)
**Church Government**

The Bible teaches that the local church is to be governed by godly leaders called elders (1 Timothy 5:17). The qualifications for these men are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and in Titus 1:6-9. The responsibility of the elder is to shepherd the flock of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3). The responsibility of church members is to obey the elders and submit to them in love.

(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7,17)

**The Church**

The Bible teaches that the church is the body of Christ. The head of the body is Jesus (Ephesians 5:23b; Colossians 1:18). The mission of the church is to carry out God’s stated purpose to make disciples of Jesus throughout the world and equip them for ministry. (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-16)

**Healing**

The Bible teaches that if someone is sick they may call for the elders of the church to come and anoint them with oil and pray for them (James 5:14-15). James also tells us to “confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)

**Worship and Praise**

We believe that Worship should be a priority for every Christian. The Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3). In fact, we are instructed that the true worshipper must worship in Spirit and Truth. (John 4:24; Psalm 150)

Our celebration, worship and praise to God may express itself in many forms: clapping (Psalm 47:1), singing (Psalm 95:1-2), bowing and kneeling (Psalm 95:6), lifting hands (Psalm 63:4), or by playing musical instruments (Psalm 150:3-5).

Worship is the daily pouring out of all that we are in adoration of Him, for all He is.

**Church Discipline**

The Bible teaches that we are to follow the steps Jesus gave in Matthew 18:15-20 in the case of a brother or sister guilty of sin. All church discipline should be redemptive and restorative in nature (Galatians 6:1-2). Sins such as immorality are to be dealt with lovingly and precisely (1 Corinthians 5:1-5). Believers are instructed in Scripture to judge other believers (1 Corinthians 5:12), and they are to be obedient and submissive to the spiritual leaders God has placed in the church (Hebrews 13:17).

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Please sign and return to the Riverlawn office.

I pledge that I will teach theological truths in conjunction with the Riverlawn Christian Church statement of faith above. If I teach outside of the truths defined by Riverlawn Christian Church, I understand I will be removed from a teaching authority.

_____________________  ______________   __________________  ___________
Teacher       Date       Pastor       Date