



**GREEN HILLS**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. **The Bible** – We believe in the inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy of the entire Bible. No portion was produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. And as such, the Bible is the final authority and supreme standard for all of faith and life. The Holy Bible is the living and active Word of God—a testimony in its entirety to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. (Psalms 19:7-10; 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 21:33; 24:25-27, 44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
2. **God** - We believe in one God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as trinity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature, essence, or being.
  - A. **The Father** – We believe in the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and all of human history. He is sovereign in His love, power, understanding, presence and judgments. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men. (Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 6:1-4; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:26-32; 28:18-20; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 1:15-17; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 4:7-8).
  - B. **The Son** – We believe in the one Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one essence with the Father; who for us and for our salvation became flesh and dwelt among us, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary—truly and fully both God and man. Jesus perfectly revealed and fulfilled the will of God, identifying Himself completely with mankind—yet without sin. And in His substitutionary death on the cross He paid the penalty for our sins and made provision for the redemption of mankind. He was physically raised from the dead with a glorified body, appeared to His disciples, and ascended into heaven. He is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world, claim His ultimate victory over His enemies, and consummate His redemptive mission. (Genesis 1:1-3; 18:1ff; Psalms 2; 110; Isaiah 9:2-7; 53:1-12; Matthew 1; 3:13-17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18, 29; 10:30, 38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20, 28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; 1

Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; Revelation 5; 19:11-16; 20:11-15; 21:1-8, 22-27).

C. **The Holy Spirit** – We believe in the Holy Spirit, the fully divine Spirit of God who is worshipped and glorified with the Father and the Son. He calls mankind to the Savior, effects regeneration, indwells, empowers, and enables believers to understand Scripture, testify about the Lord Jesus and bring glory to God. He convicts us, counsels us, and conforms us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. The church is unified by the Holy Spirit for the work of fulfilling the Great Commandment and Great Commission. (Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalms 139:7ff.; Ezekiel 36; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Luke 1:35; 11:13; 12:12; John 4:24; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 10:44-45; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11, 13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:3-6; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8, 14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 5:6-7. Revelation 22:1).

3. **Mankind** – We believe that mankind is the special creation of God, made in His own image. Therefore, humanity is sacred and every person of every race—from conception throughout the entirety of life—possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. In the beginning mankind was created innocent of sin, enjoying uninhibited fellowship with God. By free choice mankind sinned against God, experienced separation from Him, and fell from his original innocence, whereby his posterity inherits a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. (Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 51:5; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 7:14-25; 8:14-18; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

Mankind is only saved by faith in Jesus, and this salvation is available to all who repent of their sin, call on Jesus as Lord, and look to Him alone for their life and salvation. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Only the grace of God can bring mankind into His holy fellowship and enable us to fulfill our chief end: to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever. (Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; Ezekiel 36:24-38; Zechariah 9-17; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; John 1:11-14, 29; 3:3-21, 36; 14:1-11; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 5:8-10; 8:1-18, 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; Colossians 3; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 21:1-22:5).

A. **Gender** - In the beginning God created mankind, male and female, as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation—the two distinct and complementary genders together reflecting the image of God. Therefore, we believe that God wonderfully and immutably

creates each person as male or female. Rejection of one's biological sex is a sinful rejection of the image of God within that person and is outside of God's intent and design.

- B. **Sexuality** - We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage. Therefore, any form of sexual activity outside of marriage (including the use of pornography, fornication, adultery, homosexual, bisexual, or transsexual behavior, etc.) is a sinful rejection of God's intent and design.
- C. **Marriage** - We believe that marriage is God's unique gift to mankind, determined at creation, in order to ultimately reveal the everlasting union between Christ and His church. As such, marriage is by definition a holy covenant before God and the spiritual and physical uniting of one man and one woman in that exclusive covenant commitment for their joint lifetime. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-32; Matthew 5:27-32, 19:3-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4).

We believe that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through his Son Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines and practices of Green Hills Community Church. We also believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Green Hills Community Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to our members and the community, it is imperative that all persons who are employed by Green Hills Community Church in any capacity, accepted as members, or serve as volunteers agree to and abide by this Statement on Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage in both belief and practice. (Psalms 51; Isaiah 1:18-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31; 9:23-26).

- 4. **The Church** – We believe the New Testament speaks of the Church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. Members of the Body of Christ are to meet regularly in local congregations for the building up of the church and glorification of Christ and in adherence to His command.

Each local church family is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two sacraments of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges vested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Its scriptural officers are pastors, elders, and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor and elder is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. (Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23; 15:1-30; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5; 9:13-14; 12; Galatians 3:25-29;

Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 4:11-16; 5:22-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; Hebrews 11-12:2; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3).

5. **Sacraments** – We believe that two Sacraments have been given to the Church, these being Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. (Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12).

A. **Baptism** – We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's unification by faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. As such, baptism is a picture and proclamation of the believer's death to sin, burial of their old life, and resurrection to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. Baptism is a believer’s public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and a uniting point to the church.

B. **The Lord’s Supper** – We believe that the Lord’s Supper is likewise a symbolic and experiential act whereby believers in Christ, through partaking of the bread, a symbol of the body of Christ sacrificed for us, and the cup, representing the blood of Christ shed for the forgiveness of our sins, are, by faith, spiritually united to one another and nourished by Christ as they memorialize together the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.