

Statement of Faith

Cornerstone Christian Care Society, Inc. was established by the Canadian Reformed Churches and the United Reformed Churches in North America to address the needs of people in their respective congregations who are developmentally/physically challenged. The aim of the Society is to provide a place wherein the people being supported can also remain as active members of their Reformed church community.

With the understanding that all people have the right to worship in their own way, CCCS is committed to supporting our clients in the day-to-day exercise of their Reformed faith in both belief and practice. Employees, therefore, must conduct themselves, at all times, in accordance with CCCS' Statement of Faith and Code of Conduct & Lifestyles Policy (part C, following) in order to protect, maintain, and in no way devalue the integrity of the clients' system of beliefs.

To that end, CCCS's Statement of Faith is aligned with the doctrine of these two church federations. The staff and volunteers of Cornerstone Christian Care Society, Inc. (CCCS) as well as the members and officers of CCCS and its Board of Directors, representing the corporate membership at large, affirm their Christian commitment by signing the following Statement of Faith:

We believe...The Scriptures

- The Bible is the inspired Word of God, written by men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. It exists in its fullness as the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments (39 + 27 respectively). It is infallible, entirely trustworthy, and the only supreme authority in all matters of faith, doctrine, and conduct. The Bible is the complete source for a full understanding of God, our nature, and our need for a Saviour.

We believe...The Godhead

- God is but one God, eternally existent and revealed in three persons:
- God the Father, by whom all things in heaven and earth were created, and who still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures and so governs them that nothing happens by chance but by His fatherly hand.
- God the Son, Jesus Christ. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, He is both true and eternal God and at the same time a real human being. He suffered and died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day, and ascended bodily into heaven where He mediates our cause before the Father. He will return again to judge the living and the dead.
- God the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us to live in us and among us as a source of daily strength and who enables us to live a holy life.

We believe...The Creation, Fall, and Redemption of Humankind

- God has created all people in His image, for the purpose of glorifying God and serving their neighbour. Each has been created unique and yet equal in His presence.
- Through Adam's voluntary disobedience ('the Fall'), sin came into the world. As a result, all of humankind has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, leaving not one person righteous in the sight of God.
- While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. The salvation of lost and sinful humankind is only accomplished through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a gift of God to His people.
- God's people share in this gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, worked in us by God's Word and Spirit.

We believe...A Life of Gratitude and Service

- In praise and thankfulness to God, for the salvation granted in Jesus Christ, we ought to live, a life of gratitude before Him.
- We must daily confess our sins before the Lord and turn to Him in repentance, striving to live a godly life. The life of gratitude is then evident in our whole lifestyle; our godly thoughts, words, and deeds; and the way in which we treat ourselves and our neighbours.

- We must be continually filled with the Word of God and the preaching of Scripture. Our daily life evidences time spent in prayer with our Lord and in the reading of the Holy Scriptures.

We believe...The Church

- There is one true, universal Church, made up of genuine believers, God's elect. This is composed of many different churches in various localities, where the Holy Scriptures are preached purely, the sacraments are administered as Christ instituted them, and Scriptural discipline is exercised.
- Within the Church believers are united to Christ and to each other by the unity of the Spirit.
- It is the Christian's responsibility to identify with a local church, regularly sit under the preaching of the word there, and support it with their talents and gifts, time, and finances.

We believe...The Sacraments

- The sacraments instituted by Christ are two: the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion) and the Sacrament of Baptism. These are ordinances of God to be observed by the Church in the present day. The Lord's Supper is to be celebrated in remembrance of Christ. Water baptism, as a direct commandment of Christ, is to be administered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe...Sexual Relationships

- Marriage is a covenant union between God, one naturally born male, and one naturally born female. This was first instituted by God through Adam and Eve.
- The marriage contract is both spiritually and legally binding, as performed by a minister of the Church, or authorized government official, in the presence of witnesses and duly sanctioned by the government.
- Our sexuality is a gift from God and sexual intimacy is only acceptable between one naturally born male, and one naturally born female within the confines of marriage.

We believe...Heaven and Hell

- Heaven is the real and glorious eternal home of believers, the place that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself said He was going to prepare for those called to salvation.
- Hell is the eternal home of the person who physically dies without truly knowing Christ and repenting of his or her sin.
- At the return of Jesus Christ, all those who died will be raised from the dead. Those that are saved will be resurrected unto life; those that are lost unto damnation.

The Board of Directors and membership of Cornerstone Christian Care Society, Inc. (CCCS) further maintains that the *Heidelberg Catechism*, the *Belgic Confession*, and the *Canons of Dort* (collectively termed *The Three Forms of Unity*), adhered to by the Canadian Reformed Churches, the United Reformed Churches in North America, and by other church federations, accurately and adequately summarize the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. This Statement of Faith is an interpretative summary of *The Three Forms of Unity* and is a further explanation of the basis of the organization as outlined in Article 2 of the Constitution of CCCS.