

BELLWETHER CHURCH

Member Documents

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BELLWETHER CHURCH

Mission Statement

Bellwether Church is a rescued people, who love and serve God in the world.

Our Identity

Rescued

We have been rescued by God. The saving work of Christ is central to understanding who we are, how we live, and who we are becoming. There is no aspect of our lives that is not shaped by the reality and message of God's redemption.

Connected

We are God's people. God has transformed the way that we relate to one another. We pursue one another, care for one another, and grow together as disciples. We are living in a community where we are both known and know others.

Devoted

God has captivated our attention and affections. We love God. Our time, talent, vocations and finances are all opportunities to declare His worth. When we gather, we celebrate in word and song the story of God's redemption accomplished towards all who believe.

Empowered

God is empowering the church to make disciples and live out His mission together in the world. We serve, using our gifts and vocations to bring about renewal in the church and in the world. We are filled with purpose and power to declare and demonstrate the Gospel wherever we go.

β E L L W E T H E R C H U R C H

Our Doctrine

God

There is only one God ([Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [Isaiah 46:9-10](#); [John 17:3](#); [1 Corinthians 8:4-6](#); [1 Timothy 2:5](#)). God exists in three persons. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. The God-head is unified while each member is distinct. ([Matthew 3:13-17](#); [Matthew 28:17-20](#)).

Creation

God created all things to demonstrate and declare his Glory. After each day of Creation he declared his creation Good ([Colossians 1:16](#); [Genesis 1:31](#); [Romans 1:20](#)). We believe that both men and women are equally created in God's image. They are equal in value and dignity. Both genders are essential in God's design to display his glory in humanity. We also believe that there are distinct roles that each gender has been called to within the church and home ([Genesis 1:26-27](#); [Genesis 2:7](#)).

Scriptures

The Scriptures are true, authoritative, inerrant, and sufficient ([Psalm 19:7-11](#); [2 Timothy 3:16](#), [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)).

Jesus Christ

The eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin, and is both fully God and fully human ([Colossians 1:15-20](#); [Hebrews 1:1-3](#)). Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin ([John 1:29](#); [Romans 5:8](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-4](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Galatians 1:4](#); [1 Peter 3:18](#)). Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead ([Matthew 28:1-20](#); [Mark 16:1-8](#); [Luke 24:1-53](#); [John 20:1-21:25](#); [1 Corinthians 15:12-34](#)). Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven and will one day return ([John 14:3](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:16](#); [Hebrews 9:28](#); [1 John 3:2](#); [Revelation 1:7](#)).

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is also fully God. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as the Helper. The Holy Spirit is essential in the work of salvation, bringing sinners to a point of repentance and faith. We believe that the Holy Spirit continues to work; empowering, indwelling and giving gifts to all

who repent and believe ([John 16:7](#); [Titus 3:5](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19](#); [1 Corinthians 12:4-6](#)).

Fall

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's choice to rebel in the garden of Eden. Since then we are all born bearing sin's effects. We are by birth and action sinners (We recognize that Adam and Eve were not "born" and were not created sinful; rather, they became sinful through their action). ([Genesis 6:5](#); [Psalm 51:5](#); [Jeremiah 17:9](#); [Romans 3:23](#); [Romans 5:12-21](#); [Romans 7:18](#); [Ephesians 2:1-3](#)).

Death

The consequences for sin are felt throughout creation. All of creation groans in sin. The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual ([Genesis 2:15-17](#); [Genesis 3:19](#); [Romans 5:12](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [James 1:14-15](#)).

Salvation

Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can someone be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy ([John 3:18](#); [John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#); [Romans 3:21-26](#); [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#)).

The Church

When someone trusts in Christ, they become part of God's people. The Church universal is all Christians everywhere. It is the primary means by which God is fulfilling His purposes in the world ([2 Corinthians 5:17-20](#)). A local church body is a group of believers in a particular place. All members at Bellwether are united to Christ and to one another. Unity within the church is shown in love for God and for others ([1 John 4: 7-21](#)). We practice baptism and communion regularly. We will teach baptism by water for those who believe. Communion will be open to any who profess belief in Jesus Christ for salvation.

Future Things

One day Jesus will return and make all things new. There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal glory. Those who do not trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal punishment ([Matthew 25:31-46](#); [John 5:28-29](#); [Acts 24:15](#)).

BELLWETHER CHURCH

Church Leadership

Elders

Elders are biblically qualified men who serve as shepherds and overseers of a local church. They are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is an overview of responsibilities for elders found in Scripture:

- Members in good standing with Bellwether Church who are qualified according to the scriptures. ([1 Timothy 3:1-13](#)).
- Appoint elders and deacons according to the criteria assigned in Scripture ([Titus 1:5-9](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)).
- Prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit ([Acts 20:28](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)).
- Care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth, and love ([Matthew 28:16-20](#); [Ephesians 4:15-16](#); [Colossians 1:28](#); [James 5:14](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#)).
- Provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scriptures ([Acts 20:27-28](#); [1 Timothy 4:16](#); [2 Timothy 4:1-5](#); [Titus 2:1](#)).
- Equip the members of the church for the work of ministry ([Ephesians 4:11-16](#)).
- Be on guard against false teachers and teachings ([Matthew 7:15](#); [Acts 20:28-31](#); [1 Timothy 1:3-7](#); [1 John 4:1](#)).
- Lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health for the church as a whole ([Matthew 18:15-20](#); [1 Corinthians 5](#); [Galatians 6:1](#); [James 5:19-20](#)).
- Set an example for the flock at Bellwether. ([Philippians 3:17](#); [1 Timothy 4:12](#); [Titus 2:7-8](#); [1 Peter 5:3](#)).

Deacons

Deacons are biblically qualified men and women who serve in various ways within the church. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word *diakonos* that has the general meaning of “servant”. The following is an overview of qualifications and responsibilities of Deacons found in Scripture:

- Members in good standing with Bellwether Church who are qualified according to the scriptures. ([1 Timothy 3:8-13](#))
- Serve the church in very practical acts of table-service for food and hospitality events ([Acts 6:1-6](#)).
- Help with dire needs arising from hunger, thirst, alienation, sickness, emergencies or unusual pressures with a benevolence fund or other material support ([Matthew 25:44](#); [2 Timothy 1:16-18](#); [Philemon 13](#); [Hebrews 6:10](#)).
- Assist the elders in practical needs of ministry such as care for church property, communion and baptismal needs, greeting, budget and personnel needs, or any “service” that would support and promote the ministry of the Word ([1 Peter 4:10-11](#); [Romans 15:25-26](#); [Acts 11:29](#); [2 Corinthians 8:4](#); [2 Corinthians 9:12](#); [Ephesians 4:12](#)).
- Set an example for the flock at Bellwether. ([Philippians 1:1](#); [1 Timothy 3:2-13](#); [Matthew 20:26](#); [John 12:26](#)).

BELLWETHER CHURCH

Church Member Covenant

This covenant is an acknowledgment of historic Christian beliefs, and an agreement to live and grow as disciples in the specific setting of Bellwether Church for God's glory.

_____ **We are committed to Truth.** We submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues ([Psalm 119](#); [2 Timothy 3:14-17](#); [2 Peter 1:19-21](#)). Additionally we have read and agree with the doctrinal statement of Bellwether Church.

_____ **We walk with Jesus.** We pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines ([Luke 18:1](#); [Acts 17:11](#); [1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#); [Ephesians 5:1-21](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:12-22](#)).

_____ **We are in this together.** We regularly participate in the life of Bellwether Church by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community, and serving those within and outside of this church ([Acts 2:42-47](#); [Hebrews 10:23-25](#); [Titus 3:14](#)).

_____ **We are generous.** We steward the resources God has given us. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary ([Matthew 25:14-30](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#); [2 Corinthians 8-9](#); [1 Peter 4:10-11](#)).

_____ **We are becoming more like Jesus.** We are not who we were, and not yet who we will be. By God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit we are growing in holiness ([1 Peter 1:13-16](#); [1 Peter 4:1-3](#)).

- We pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pornography ([Romans 13:11-14](#); [1 Corinthians 6:15-20](#); [Ephesians 5:3](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:1-8](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#)).
- We seek to preserve and honor the gift of marriage. We agree to pursue steps towards marriage reconciliation before seeking

divorce ([Matthew 19:1-12](#); [Mark 10:1-12](#); [Luke 16:18](#); [1 Corinthians 7:10-11](#); [1 Corinthians 6](#)).

- We refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates ([Romans 1:28-32](#); [Romans 13:3](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#); [Ephesians 5:18](#); [James 3:3-18](#)).
- We take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedoms, and seek to avoid actions that could present a stumbling block to one another ([1 Corinthians 8:9](#)).
- We seek to be consistent in representing Christ and His character, no matter where we are, who we are with, and what we are doing ([1 Thessalonians 2:11-12](#)).

_____ **We are unified.** We submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church ([Ephesians 4:1-3](#); [Hebrews 13:17](#); [1 Peter 5:5](#)). In confrontation, we are reasonable and teachable. In correction, we follow the biblical procedure for church discipline, with the constant hope of repentance and restoration ([Matthew 18:15-17](#); [1 Corinthians 5](#)).

_____ **We are humble.** We are able to receive righteous and loving correction when approached by fellow believers ([Psalm 141:5](#); [Matthew 18:15-20](#); [1 Corinthians 5:9-13](#); [Hebrews 12:5-11](#)). When we sin, we confess our sin to God and to other believers. We seek out regular accountability to help put our sin to death ([Romans 8:13](#); [Colossians 3:5](#); [James 5:16](#); [1 John 1:6-10](#)).

_____ I have read and agree with the covenant of Bellwether Church. I understand, and desire to be held accountable to these beliefs and expectations.

Signature

Date