

Glen Elm Church of Christ

Statement of Faith

Mission

Seek Christ. Share Christ.

Vision

We envision a church where people grow in Christ to love God, to love people, and to participate in Jesus' mission, while being empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit. We desire to be a church that follows Jesus' model of making disciples through relationships.

Core Beliefs

God

There is one God who exists eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. God is the creator and ruler of the universe, and the giver of life. He has revealed Himself in creation, in history, in the Bible, in Jesus, and through His Holy Spirit. His essential character is love.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27; Psalm 90:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Romans 1:20; John 1:1-18, 32-34; John 15:26; 1 John 4:8

Jesus

Jesus Christ is Lord, the Son of the living God. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was God in the flesh. Jesus lived a sinless life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. Jesus was buried and rose from the dead, demonstrating His power over sin and death. Jesus ascended to heaven and will one day return in glory and power to claim His people and take them to heaven.

Scripture References: John 3:16-17; Matthew 1:18-23; John 10:14-18; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Matthew 27-28; John 14:1-3

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of sin and their need for Jesus Christ as Savior. The Holy Spirit lives in every Christian, providing understanding of spiritual truths and power for godly living. Christians seek to live under His influence daily so that the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, and peace, is evident in their lives. The Holy Spirit enables Christians to work and witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture References: John 3:5-6; John 16:7-8, 13; Acts 1:4-5, 8; Acts 2:38; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:9-16; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14

The Bible

The Bible is God's infallible and entirely trustworthy communication to humankind. It was written by human authors who were inspired by God and, therefore, it is absolute truth. Through the Bible, God reveals Himself and gives instruction to humankind in regard to matters of life and faith. Where the Bible speaks, we need to listen and obey.

Scripture References: Psalm 119:105, 160; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21

People

People are made in the image of God, designed to be like Him in character. We were created to worship and enjoy fellowship with God, serve fellow humans, and care for God's creation. Every human has tremendous potential for good, but all of us are marred by sin and separated from God because of disobedience. Sin causes many problems in life and leads to eternal death.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:15-17; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:1-2; Mark 12:30-31; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

Grace & Salvation

Salvation from sin and death comes through God's divine, gracious intervention in the cross of Jesus Christ. We can never make up for sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ and accepting God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from self-ruled lives and make Jesus our Lord, we are saved. This is evidenced by repentance, confession, baptism by immersion, and a life committed to Jesus Christ. Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ makes us holy and ends our separation from God. It is God's free gift to all who believe and have faith in Jesus.

Scripture References: John 1:10-13; John 14:6; Romans 3:22-25; Romans 5:1-2; Romans 6:23; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 2:1-5, 8-9; Titus 3:3-6; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-47; Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 3:15-17; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; Titus 3:4-7

Church

Jesus Christ is the head of the church, which is His spiritual body. There is one universal church made up of those who have been added by God as His saved children. The body of Jesus, the church, is expressed in local congregations of believers who meet regularly to encourage one another and to worship God. Jesus works through the church to carry out His mission of bringing people back into relationship with God.

Scripture References: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-28; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Disciples

The Bible teaches that every Christian is to grow to become like Jesus. We are all on a journey of being transformed into new people who no longer live by the customs and standards of the world. As we take on a Christ-like character, our relationship with God will deepen. We will serve others out of love, make sacrifices for God's Kingdom, and share Jesus with others.

Scripture References: Colossians 3:10; Romans 12:1-2; John 15:5-10; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 1:15-19; Ephesians 4:12-16

Holiness

God is holy, perfect, and without sin, and God makes His people holy through Jesus' blood. God then calls His people to live holy lives. For His purposes, God sets His people apart from the world. To be holy, Christians walk in obedience to God, living by God's standards and not by the standards of our world or culture. Christians strive to be pure in every aspect of their lives.

Scripture References: Leviticus 20:7, 26; 1 Peter 1:2, 13-16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-15, 17-5:2; Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Matthew 19:3-12; Mark 10:5-9; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-4, 12-14; Leviticus 18; Leviticus 20; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 5:12; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-9; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 22:15

The Priesthood of every Believer

Every Christian has direct access to God through Jesus. The leading of the Holy Spirit, prayer, Bible study, and congregational worship are examples of ways to raise our awareness of God's presence. Every Christian joins with Christ in the priestly work of leading people to God. All Christians are called to participate in relationships where they share their faith with those around them through word and action.

Scripture References: Hebrews 10:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Unity

Jesus said the unity of His disciples and their love for one another demonstrate to the world that He came from the Father and that we are His disciples. In order to glorify Jesus in all that we do, we seek to be united on our core beliefs and allow for differing opinions on disputable matters. Though we may come from various backgrounds, we are one—a team focused on carrying out Jesus' mission.

Scripture References: John 13:34-35; John 17:20-22; Ephesians 4:1-5, 11-13, 16; Colossians 3:12-15; Titus 3:9-11; 1 Peter 3:8-9

Stewardship

Giving of our time, energy, and finances is important to our spiritual growth and demonstrates confidence in God. Christians put God first in all areas of their lives. They are instructed to give willingly, cheerfully, generously, regularly, proportionately, and expectantly. Tithing and offering to God the "best of the first" are the biblical standards for supporting the Kingdom work of the local church.

Scripture References: Genesis 4:4; Exodus 20:3; Exodus 22:30, 23:19; Proverbs 3:9; Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:7-12; Matthew 6:33; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9-12; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Communion

Communion is a sacred memorial that proclaims the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Christians count it a privilege to participate in Communion. Every week, we share in Communion as a community, approaching it with humility, reverence, and sincerity.

Scripture References: Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30

Summary

Above, we have listed Glen Elm Church of Christ's core beliefs. We believe that the biblical teaching on all of these core beliefs is clear. Therefore, all teaching and leadership at Glen Elm Church of Christ will follow these biblical standards.

We acknowledge that there are some other teachings on which Christians hold different points of view. Therefore, it is very important that whenever discussions occur on controversial matters, the differences be discussed in a spirit of peace that promotes unity.

Core Values

As children of the Heavenly Father, saved by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and whose inheritances are sealed by the Holy Spirit, our values must align with God's values. These values govern us as we live out our Core Beliefs.

- We value love: It is the core of God's nature.
- We value putting Christ first in our lives: We seek to become like Him.
- We value the leading of God's Holy Spirit.
- We value all people: All people are made in the image of God.
- We value the church, the body of Christ: We demonstrate this through commitment and loyalty.
- We value the church's God-given mission: Telling the world about Jesus.
- We value relationships: Believing them to be an effective way for Christians to share their faith through word and action.
- We value unity: When God's people serve and work as a team, God is glorified, and we are effective in reaching the lost.
- We value the training and equipping of God's people: So that everyone plays a part in Jesus' mission.
- We value justice: God is just.
- We value God's plan for marriage and families: A foundational piece for a healthy society.
- We value excellence, creativity, and relevance: They are reflections of God's nature.