

Gospel Communities on Mission

As a covenant community of churches we affirm our commitment to the task of living as Gospel Communities on Mission, pledging our allegiance to Christ Himself, to the Gospel itself, and to each other as fellow ambassadors of the Kingdom of God.

Gospel Affirmations

1. We affirm that the Gospel entrusted to the churches is God's Gospel and His alone. (Mark 1:14, 15)
2. We affirm that the Gospel is the saving power of God in that the Gospel affects salvation to everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16, 17)
3. We affirm that the Gospel diagnoses the universal human condition as one of sinful rebellion against God. (Romans 1:18-32; 3:1-20)
4. We affirm that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, the only mediator between God and humanity. (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5)
5. We affirm that the church is commanded by God and is therefore under divine obligation to preach the Gospel to every living person. (Luke 24:47)
6. We affirm that faith in Jesus Christ as the divine Word (Logos), the second Person of the Trinity, co-eternal and co-essential with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is foundational to faith in the Gospel. (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:3)
7. We affirm that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the virgin-born descendent of David. He had a true human nature, was subject to the law of God, and was like us in all points, except without sin. (John 1:14; Romans 1:3; Galatians 4:5; Hebrews 2:17; 7:26-28)
8. We affirm that the atonement of Christ by which, in his obedience, he offered a perfect sacrifice, propitiating the Father by paying for our sins and satisfying divine justice on our behalf according to God's eternal plan, is an essential element of the Gospel. (Isaiah 53:4-12; Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 9:13-15; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)
9. We affirm that Christ's saving work included both his life and His death on our behalf. (Galatians 3:13)
10. We affirm that the bodily resurrection of Christ from the dead is essential to the biblical Gospel. (1 Corinthians 15:14)
11. We affirm that the biblical doctrine of justification by faith alone in Christ alone is essential to the Gospel. (Romans 3:28; 4:5; Galatians 2:16)
12. We affirm that the doctrine of the imputation (reckoning or counting) both of our sins to Christ and of his righteousness to us, whereby our sins are fully forgiven and we are fully accepted, is essential to the biblical Gospel. (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)
13. We affirm that saving faith results in sanctification, the transformation of life in growing conformity to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification means ongoing repentance, a life of turning from sin to serve Jesus Christ in grateful reliance on Him as one's Lord and Master. (Romans 8:4, 13-14 ; Galatians 5: 22-25)

14. We affirm that saving faith includes mental assent to the content of the Gospel, acknowledgment of our own sin and need, and personal trust and reliance upon Christ and his work. (Acts 8:12; Romans 1:16; 10:9)

Church (Gospel Communities) Affirmations

1. We affirm that the church is known in the world by our love for one another. (John 13:34-35)
2. We affirm that as the church we are to confess our sins one to another. (James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-9)
3. We affirm that the church is to apply corrective discipline to its own members. (Matthew 18:15-20)
4. We affirm that the church is to be led by servant leaders. (Matthew 20:25-28; John 13:12-15)
5. We affirm that the church is to partner in prayer for the advancement of the Gospel. (2 Corinthians 1:11; Colossians 4:2-4)
6. We affirm that the church is to build strong families, because the family and the church are interdependent, theologically and functionally parallel institutions ordained by God. (Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Timothy 3:4-5)
7. We affirm that as the church we are to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2).
8. We affirm that as the church the word of Christ is to dwell in us richly as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom. (Colossians 3:16)
9. We affirm that we are to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 1:27)
10. We affirm that we are to acknowledge and affirm God's working in other local churches. (2 Corinthians 7:13-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:4)
11. We affirm that we are the one body of Christ, with varieties of gifts, service, and activities empowered by God and for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
12. We affirm that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)
13. We affirm that as the church, whatever we do, in word or deed, we are to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)
14. We affirm that God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to the power at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Mission Affirmations

1. We affirm we that are commissioned by Christ to make disciples in the cultural context of all nations. (Matthew 28:19)
2. We affirm that we are to teach disciples to be obedient to all the commands of Christ. (Matthew 28:20)
3. We affirm that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation and as ambassadors of Christ he is making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

4. We affirm that we are to live before others so that they see our good works and give glory to our father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)
5. We affirm that we are to declare and apply the redemptive message to all of creation. (Romans 8:18-25; Colossians 1:19-23)
6. We affirm that the church is commanded by God and is therefore under divine obligation to preach the Gospel to every living person. (Luke 24:47; Matthew 28:18-19)
7. We affirm that we are to bear witness of the resurrected Christ and proclaim the repentance and forgiveness of sins with power. (Luke 24:46-49; 1 Corinthians 15)
8. We affirm that as the Father has sent his Son, so Christ sends us to incarnationally and redemptively engage the lives of our neighbors and neighborhoods in humility and service. (Luke 15; John 20:21)
9. We affirm we are to reason with both the religious and the irreligious from the Scriptures concerning the Gospel of the resurrected Christ. (Acts 17:1-3, 16-18)
10. We affirm that we are to declare the Gospel, be witnesses, and make disciples in the power and provision of the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:17-18; Luke 24:49; John 20:22; Acts 1:8)
11. We affirm that although we are free in Christ, we are to make ourselves servants of all kinds of people so that we might share with them the Gospel message and its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)