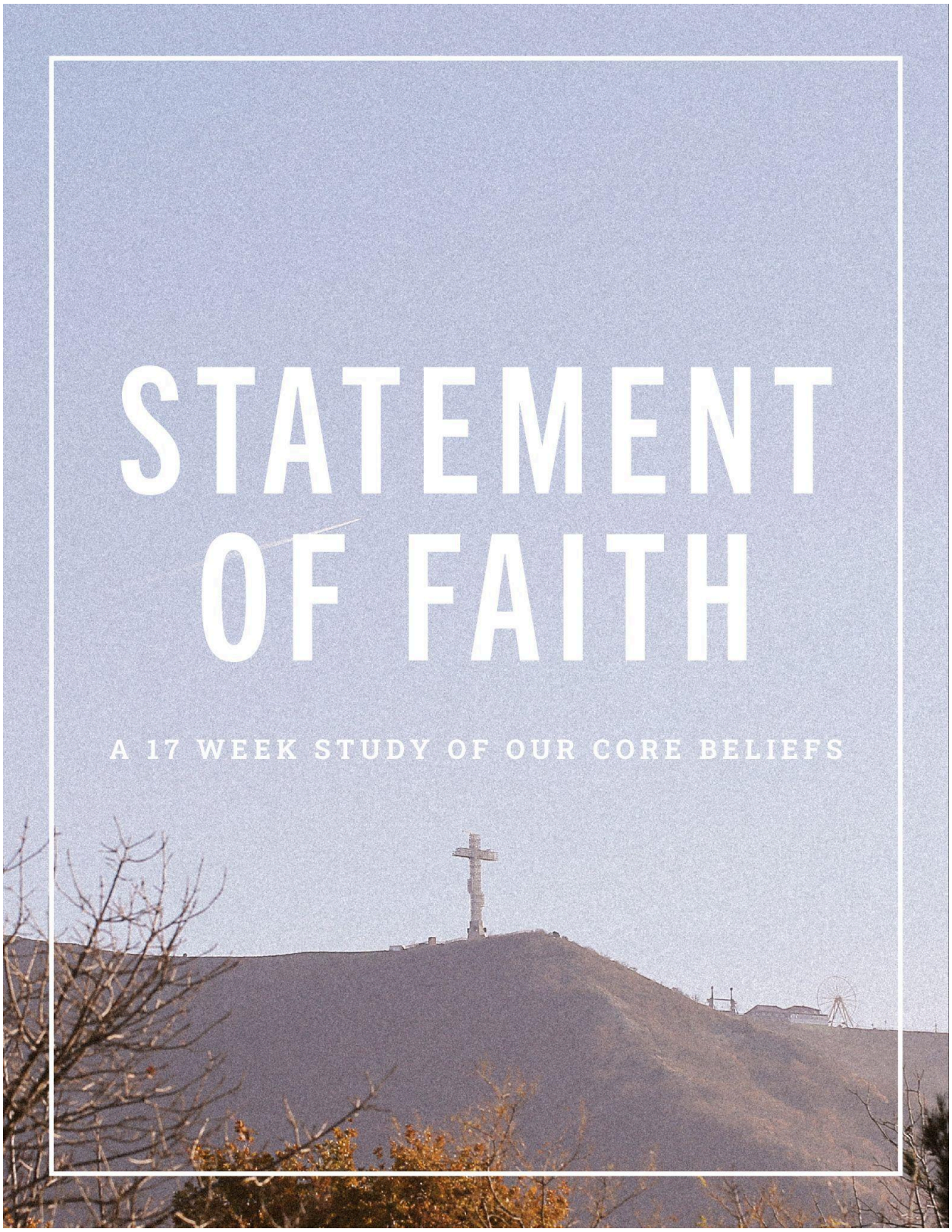
STATEMENT OF FAITH

A 17 WEEK STUDY OF OUR CORE BELIEFS



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A 17 Week Study On Our Core Beliefs

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Northview's Statement of Faith is something our Elders and members strive to live and teach in alignment with.

There are 17 articles to cover. One per week. Each with the same discussion prompts.

Northview is affiliated with the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, and as such our Statement overlaps with the denomination's Confession of Faith. *(See https://www.mennonitebrethren.ca/mb-confession-of-faith/ for additional commentary and expanded resources for each article.)*

Each week you can read, discuss, and survey the biblical texts that support these core beliefs. Additionally, any time our Community Groups meet together, it's important to not just talk "about God" but also "to God."

We hope you pray as Jesus taught (Matt 6:9-13) and present your requests to God with thanksgiving (Phil 4:6-8), but also pray in connection with each of the beliefs expressed by our Statement of Faith. The "ACTS" model of prayer could be helpful to conclude each discussion with.

- **Adoration:** Prayers of praise for who God is.
    - Reflect on God's character and nature, and cherish these truths in prayer.
- **Confession:** Prayers of honesty about how we've sinned against God.
    - Agree with God about where you've fallen short and missed the mark.
- **Thanksgiving:** Prayer of gratitude for what God has done.
    - Celebrate and appreciate the work of the Lord in prayer.
- **Supplication:** Prayers of trust and dependence that bring our requests to God.
    - Ask him to provide and intervene in faith.

Got further questions? Contact communitygroups@northview.org.

Enjoy your time with God and each other as you survey our primary doctrines!

WEEK 01: GOD

"In the beginning, God…"
(From Genesis 1:1, ESV)

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We believe in God the Father, the Creator and Sustainer of this universe, who in His infinite wisdom and love planned the redemption of mankind and accomplished it through Jesus Christ.
We believe in Jesus Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, was crucified for our sins, rose from the dead and was exalted to the right hand of God.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who effects redemption in the lives of those who believe in Christ. He convicts, guides, teaches, rebukes, indwells, empowers, comforts, intercedes, unites believers into one body, and glorifies Christ.

Gen. 1; Deut. 6:4-6; Ps. 139; Is. 40; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 1:1, 18; 4:24; 15:26; Rom. 8:1-17, 26-27; 2Cor. 3:17; 5;19; 13:14; Phil. 2:6-8; 1Tim. 3;16; 6:15-16; Heb. 11:6; Jude 2-5.

- Look up each of these verses. Take turns reading them out loud.
- Talk about this section of our statement of faith and the biblical texts attached to it. Pick a question or two below:
    - What part of this week's topic was familiar to you? When did you first come to believe this? What influences developed this belief?
    - Can you think of a time when this topic was particularly meaningful — or difficult — for you personally? Why?
    - How do you see this belief most embraced – or abandoned – by culture (or Christians) today?
    - What was something you hadn't thought about before (either from one of the verses you read or the way the statement is written)?
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Be sure to spend some time in prayer for each other. Further resource on this article HERE.

You can also use our "ACTS" prayer template in relation to this article of our statement of faith.

WEEK 02: THE REVELATION OF GOD

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son…"
(From Hebrews 1:1-2, ESV)

We believe that God has made His power and deity known in creation. He revealed Himself also in word and deed in the Old Testament. He revealed Himself supremely and finally in the Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament.
We believe that all Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, are inspired by God as men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit.
We accept the entire Bible to be the infallible Word of God and the final, complete and authoritative guide for the faith and life of Christian discipleship.

Ps. 19; 119:105; Lk. 24:27, 44; Rom. 1:18-23; 2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-21; Heb. 1:1-2; 8:5-13

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WEEK 03: MAN AND SIN

...it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God."
(From Romans 3:10-11, ESV)

We believe that man was created in the image of God, sinless and in fellowship with God, with a free will to make moral choices. By sinning he brought death upon the whole human race. As a consequence people are sinful by nature, guilty before God and in need of forgiveness and restoration.

Gen. 1:27; 3:1-19; Mt. 19:13-15; Rom. 3:10-18; 5:12; 18:21; Eph. 2:1-3.

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WEEK 04: SALVATION BY GRACE

“For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"
(Ephesians 2:8, ESV)

We believe that there is one God and Mediator between God and men, the Man Jesus Christ, who by his substitutionary death has redeemed humanity from the power of sin, death and eternal punishment. We are saved by God’s grace through faith in Christ, and by faith alone. Those who repent receive forgiveness of sins and by the power of the Holy Spirit are born into the family of God, and, as faithful disciples, joyfully obey God’s Word. Christians are to treat people of other faiths with respect, but urgently proclaim Christ as the only way of salvation.

Acts 2:42, 46; Eph. 1;13-14; 2:8-9; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 4:12; 9:15-28; 1Jn. 1:9; Jn 14;6; Acts 4:12; Rom 1:18-24; Rom 2:1-16.

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WEEK 05: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."
(1 John 3:24, ESV)

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and transforms him or her into the image of Christ and enables the believer to witness to his or her Lord in daily life. The Christian lives in fellowship with God and other believers. The believer contributes to the building of the body of Christ with his or her material and spiritual gifts. By the means of grace provided by Christ, the believer seeks to grow to maturity as this is expressed particularly in the “fruit of the Spirit.” Since the believer’s body is a “temple of the Holy Spirit” he or she refrains from those things which harm the body and the mind. In striving for perfection the believer recognizes his or her complete dependence on God and is constantly in need of His forgiving and cleansing grace.

Mt. 5:14-16; Jn. 12:26; 15:4-5; Rom. 6; 8:9-16; 12; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:1-4; 4:1-16; Tit. 2:11-14; Heb. 12:14; 1 Jn. 3

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WEEK 06: THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
(1 Corinthians 12:27, ESV)

We believe that the church was established through Christ’s redemptive work in history, and that it is comprised of all who put their faith in Him and who are baptized by the Spirit into one body, regardless of nation, race or social class. Despite the diversity in congregations and denominations, the Holy Spirit creates unity among all the people of God.

Mt. 18:15-35; Jn. 13:1-17; Jn. 17-21; Acts. 2:38-44; 15:1-28; 1 Cor. 12-14; 2 Cor. 2:6-8; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:10-22; 5:21, 25-27; 1 Thess. 5:11, 14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15; Rev. 5:9

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WEEK 07: THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”"
(Matthew 28:19-20, ESV)

We believe that the Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation”, and that the command to make disciples of all nations is the primary task of the church. Every member of the church is called to participate in the mission of the church as he/she is enabled by God’s grace.

Mt. 2:23; 11:5; 28:19-20; Acts. 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20.

[Note Northview’s Mission Statement: “We exist to help people become deeply rooted followers of Jesus.”]

- Look up each of these verses. Take turns reading them out loud. See also Romans 1:16.
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WEEK 08: THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

**“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God,
which he obtained with his own blood."**
(Acts 20:28, ESV)

We believe that God through the Holy Spirit has endowed all His children with gifts for Christian ministries. All are called to use their gifts to build up the body of Christ and to glorify the Lord. Some members of the church are called to lead, to preach, to teach, to evangelize and to nurture. For this reason, God gives some to be Elders and Pastors. The church commissions or ordains people for such ministries and loves, respects, and supports those who serve faithfully. Those in leadership are to live exemplary Christian lives.

Is. 6:1-10; Jer. 3:15; Acts 6:1-6; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:1-10; 5:17-22; Tit. 1:5-9; 3:10; 1 Pet. 5:1-5.

- Look up each of these verses. Take turns reading them out loud. See also 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Ephesians 4:11-13 (these aren’t attached to the official statement).
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WEEK 9: CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

**“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
we too might walk in newness of life."**
(Romans 6:4, ESV)

We believe that Christians should be baptized in water upon confession of their faith in Christ. We practice baptism by immersion, although we receive into fellowship those who have been baptized on confession of their faith by another mode. Baptism is a public declaration that the believer identifies with Christ and has become part of His body, the church.

Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:2-6; Col. 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 1 Pet. 3:21

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WEEK 10: THE LORD'S SUPPER

**"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."**
(1 Corinthians 11:26, ESV)

In preparation for the fellowship of the Lord's Supper, all believers examine themselves. All those who understand its meaning, confess Jesus Christ as Lord in word and life, are accountable to their congregation and are living in right relationship with God and others are invited to participate in the Lord's Supper.

Mt. 16:24; 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-32; Rev. 3:20.

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WEEK 11: MARRIAGE AND THE CHRISTIAN HOME

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
(Genesis 2:24, ESV)

We believe that God instituted marriage. Marriage is a sacred union between one man and one woman. Believers who marry should have a common Christian commitment; a believer should not marry an unbeliever.
We believe that divorce, adultery and homosexuality constitute a violation of God’s intention for marriage. We do not condone same sex marriage or homosexual lifestyles. Christian parents should nurture their children through exemplary living, prayer, worship, instruction in God’s Word, and godly discipline.

Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-24; Prov. 5:18-19; Mal. 2:13-16; Mt. 5:31-32; 19:4-9; 1 Cor. 7:10-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:22-23; 6:4; Heb. 13:4; Rom 1:18-32.

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WEEK 12: THE LORD'S DAY AND WORK

**"...seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you."**
(From Matthew 6:33, ESV)

We believe that God has called us to work and that work is honorable. However, the Christian also needs to have time for corporate worship, instruction in the faith and fellowship. Therefore, following the example of the New Testament Church, we set aside one day a week as the Lord's Day for spiritual up-building and limit our labors on that day to work of necessity and deeds of mercy.

Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-10; Mt. 6:33; Lk. 24:1-36; Acts 2:1; 20:7; Rom. 14:5-6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:11-12; Heb. 10:23-25.

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WEEK 13: CHRISTIAN INTEGRITY

**“But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no,
so that you may not fall under condemnation."**
(James 5:12, ESV)

Christians are obligated to speak the truth at all times. As a witness to our integrity we affirm that we will tell the truth at all times in keeping with what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Also, we avoid holding membership in lodges and secret societies including those that require an oath, but seek rather to foster fellowship among believers.

Mt. 5:33-37; 23:1-12; Jn. 18:19-23; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:6-13; James 5:12.

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WEEK 14: THE STATE

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”
(1 Timothy 2:1-2, ESV)

We believe that God has instituted the state. Our chief concern and primary allegiance, however, is to Christ’s kingdom. We pray for our government, respect those in authority, pay taxes, obey all laws not in conflict with the Word of God, and witness against corruption and injustice in society.

Mt. 22:17-21; Acts 4:19; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-6; 1 Pet. 2:13-14.

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WEEK 15: LOVE AND PEACE

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you…"
(From Matthew 5:43-44, ESV)

We believe that Christians should live by the law of love and practice forgiveness of enemies as taught and exemplified by Jesus. We seek to be agents of reconciliation; our bond with other followers of Jesus transcends all racial, social and national barriers.
We view violence as contradictory to the new nature of the Christian. In times of national conscription or war, we will teach and encourage alternate service where possible.

Ex. 20:1-17; Mt. 5:17-28, 38-45; Rom. 12:19-21; 13:8-10; 1 Pet. 2:19-23.

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WEEK 16: SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

“So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them."
(Genesis 1:27, ESV)

We believe that God is creator and giver of life, and highly values each person. Procedures designed to take human life are wrong.
We oppose all attitudes which devalue human life, especially the defenseless lives of the unborn, disabled, poor, aging and dying.

Gen 1:26-27, 2:7; Exod 20:13; Job 31:15; Ps 139:13-16; Amos 1-2; Matt 6:25-27, 25:31-46; John 10:11.

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WEEK 17: CHRIST'S FINAL TRIUMPH

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
(Revelation 21:5, ESV)

We believe that God will some day bring His purposes to a final consummation. We believe that Christ will return visibly, personally and bodily. When Christ returns the dead in Christ will be raised bodily and together with the living believers they will be bodily transformed and they shall be forever with the Lord. In the end all evil powers will be defeated and whereas the ungodly shall suffer eternal punishment, the saints shall enjoy eternal bliss in the presence of God.

Is. 2:4; 61:1-11; Mt. 25:13, 31-46; Mk. 9:43-48; Lk. 16:22-23; Jn. 5:25-29; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:21-58; Phil. 1:21-24; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Tit. 2:11-14; 2 Pet. 3:3-13; Rev. 20-22.

- Look up each of these verses. Take turns reading them out loud.
- Talk about this section of our statement of faith and the biblical texts attached to it. Pick a question or two below:
    - What part of this week's topic was familiar to you? When did you first come to believe this? What influences developed this belief?
    - Can you think of a time when this topic was particularly meaningful — or difficult — for you personally?
    - How do you see this belief most embraced – or abandoned – by culture (or Christians) today?
    - What was something you hadn't thought about before (either from one of the verses you read or the way the statement is written)?
    - Is there something you feel should impact your life more than it does from this? Any ideas of how this could apply differently to you – or to our church – than it currently does?

Be sure to spend some time in prayer for each other.

You can also use our "ACTS" prayer template in relation to this article of our statement of faith.