

RIVERVIEW STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PRACTICE

We affirm the Conservative Mennonite Conference (“CMC”) Statement of Theology and Statement of Practice. In addition to these, this document speaks to various applications of Scriptures in our day.

SCRIPTURES

We believe in the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of the Scriptures and seek to faithfully interpret them as a body.

CHURCH

We believe in the church as the body of Christ, the called out ones, separated unto God regardless of color, race, geography, or culture. The local church:

- provides opportunity for corporate worship, fellowship, and accountability.
- attempts to meet spiritual, material, emotional, and social needs.
- gives opportunity for believers to exercise their spiritual gifts.
- uses its resources to evangelize and disciple all people.

Membership at Riverview is available to those who:

- have repented of sin and trust in Jesus Christ.
- have given evidence of faith by obedience to Christ and the Word.
- have experienced believer’s baptism.
- are in accord and harmony with the faith and practice of this congregation.

STEWARDSHIP

We believe that believers are to faithfully receive, manage, and share God’s gifts. Therefore, our church should:

- care and provide for the needs of our families and congregation.
- support CMC ministries.
- manage our time appropriately.
- practice Christian stewardship in regard to wastefulness and greed.
- use possessions as tools to further God’s kingdom.

MARRIAGE

We believe in the permanence of marriage and its importance in God’s Word. We believe the Bible defines that:

- marriage is one man and one woman
- gender is biologically determined at birth
- the husband is to represent Jesus Christ
- the wife is to represent the Church of Jesus Christ

HOME

We believe the home is the primary place where Biblical truth is taught and displayed. Therefore the home should:

- develop an attitude of faithful support to the church.
- find the husband assuming the role of loving Christian leadership.
- find the wife joyfully accepting a supportive role in the home.
- train children in character and obedience.
- work toward harmony in relationships.
- be safeguarded from destructive influences.

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

We believe that life under the Lordship of Christ will be marked by:

- practicing Christian disciplines as taught in the Bible.
- seeking harmony in all relationships.
- dealing with areas of conflict with fellow believers according to Matthew 18.
- sincerely desiring to know and to do God's will.
- commitment to the brotherhood to discern and apply God's principles to daily life.
- keeping our bodies a pure dwelling place for God.
- avoiding involvement in the occult and substances harmful to the body.
- engaging only in entertainment and recreation that glorifies God.
- attire and adornment that reflects modesty, simplicity, and the distinction of the sexes.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that sanctified sexuality encompasses all that God intended persons to be as males and females; this includes their sexual relationships. It is in violation of God's will to engage in sexual relationships outside the marriage of one man to one woman. The Bible forbids lust, pornography, fornication, adultery, homosexual practices and other sexual sins.

NONRESISTANCE

We believe Jesus' teaching of nonresistance to be the standard for believers in the church age. This includes not only our relationship to the state and the military, but also that our legal, financial, and social relationships should be based on love, justice and peace.

SUBMISSION TO GOD'S ORDER

We believe as Christ humbly submitted to God the Father, so also man submits to Christ and woman submits to man. Submission is primarily an attitude of the heart and spirit. To symbolize this attitude, we encourage the practice of men baring their heads and women covering their heads for prayer and worship, stressing short hair for men and long hair for women. We accept the integrity of brothers and sisters who have differing views of these practices and affirm their sincere desire to be faithful to the Lord and His Word.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

We believe God is the author and creator of life. Life begins at conception and that the unborn child must be regarded as a living human being. Any form of mercy-killing or suicide is a violation of God's plan for life.