

A Joint Statement of Faith
First Presbyterian Church, Las Vegas
Summerlin Presbyterian Church

We are a family that welcomes all who wish to be part of the Body of Christ. We understand that life and faith are a journey and it is our desire to travel this road together. Our journey leads us to a relationship with God Almighty and a life that glorifies Him. Our family is defined by its relationship with God and the grace God provides each of us.

Our understanding of God and His intentions for human kind are revealed to us in His written Word, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which are the church's first and final authority on faith and life. We also believe that God continues to reveal Himself to us through the work of the Holy Spirit, which is always consistent with the Word of God. We believe that the Holy Scriptures lead us to the following understandings:

1. We believe in the one and only living God revealed in the Bible who is the source of all life, glory and goodness. We believe God to be the creator, redeemer and sustainer of all that exists.
2. We profess that Jesus is Lord and Head of the Church and will remain so for all eternity.
3. Our highest authority is God's will revealed in the Holy Scriptures. All discussion regarding behavior, sin and God's will for His people should be based on God's revelation within Scripture.
4. We stand firm in the conviction that we are saved by God's grace and that there is hope for all people. We understand that we are all sinful and broken. It is by God's grace we are saved through Christ. This brings hope for each of us.
5. As a church, we will not knowingly participate in any activity or endeavor that the Scriptures indentify as sinful. We will repent and seek God's grace and forgiveness for any sinful activity in which we have engaged.
6. We believe there is forgiveness, and healing for those who seek God. We are aware that we are all sinners who have fallen away from God (Romans 3:23). Goodness, grace and healing are found in our relationship with God where sin is confessed.
7. We understand that all Christians are on a lifelong journey. This journey leads faithful followers through a path of confession, forgiveness, healing and wholeness. This process, called sanctification, is one that all people regardless of condition are welcome to join.

In regards to church leadership, we hold the following positions

1. Membership in the PC(U.S.A.) rightly requires only that one confess Jesus Christ as Savior. Leadership, however, requires higher standards. In submitting to the lordship of Christ, the church officer agrees to set aside personal opinions and issues that are in conflict with Scripture and fully embrace God's Word.
2. Within the church, we believe that Christ calls women and men to ministry. Within our congregation, we have specifically outlined ministries of Deacon and Elder. The position of Elder is further defined by the roles of Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament) and Ruling Elder.
3. We expect our church leaders to be models of faith for our community, seeking to be faithful witnesses to God's grace. Additionally, we expect our leaders to be guided by the Scriptures in faith and in life, seeking God's forgiveness when they fail.
4. We desire that our church leaders seek God's will and guidance as they serve God faithfully
5. Scripture affirms God's intention for the gift of sexual intimacy to be expressed within the lifelong covenant of marriage between a man and a woman.
 - a. In light of these things, we uphold the Biblical standards of fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness for leaders in our congregation.
 - b. We further uphold the requirement that persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which scripture identifies as sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as Deacons, Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament).

Jesus is the Good News for our broken lives. We are confident in the gospel of redemption revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. To withhold the truth from any person, group or culture is a travesty. It is our prayer that all people will join us in our journey of faith, unfailing love and salvation by grace.