



Refresh
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert...for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

ISAIAH 43:19-21

What We Believe

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Why do we have a statement of faith?

We believe there is an objective reality, a truth that's there whether we acknowledge it or not, and we want to make clear what we believe about reality. There are many things that can be known simply by observing them, but there are also things that can only be known by faith, and these are the most important things: Where did everything come from? Why do we exist? Why are things the way they are? Is history headed somewhere?

How people answer these questions reflects their fundamental beliefs about reality, and as a result, how they live.

This is true whether people verbalize their beliefs or not, and very often we can live out of beliefs without being conscious of

them. We want to be conscious and aware of our faith, in order to live accordingly. We also want to be clear with those interested in knowing what drives us and lies at the core of our lives and beliefs.

At Refresh Community Church, Jesus is the heartbeat of everything we do. He's what makes us go, he's who we live for, the person that we orient our lives around. We want our church to embody his love for each other and our city.

In this statement, we focus on the core beliefs of Christianity derived from Scripture, faithfully summarized in the historic creeds, catechisms, and confessions of the Christian faith. We expect all members of Refresh Community Church to affirm and uphold this statement of faith.

Lastly, we are not God, but are limited by our human weaknesses, ignorance, biases, and sin in our expression of these doctrines. What we offer here then is not perfect or complete, and though we wholeheartedly affirm it, we remain open to further light, understanding, and correction.

THE TRIUNE GOD

That there is only one true God eternally existing in three equally divine yet distinct Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who know, love, and glorify one another in complete harmony. As Sovereign Lord, the Triune God creates, sustains, and rules over everyone and everything with perfect love, wisdom, and power, and is thus worthy of all our worship.

Exodus 3:13-15; 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 5:43-45; John 15:26; 17:5; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

DIVINE REVELATION

That the Triune God has made himself known through the world he has made, the words he has spoken, and the Son he has sent to us. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance over human words, God is clearly revealed in the Bible, which tells a unified story of his gracious work in human history. As God's Word, the Bible is true, authoritative, and necessary for a right relationship with God and his world, and serves as the basis for all of our essential beliefs and practices.

Exodus 17:14; 24:3-4; Psalm 12:6; 19:1-3; 119:160; Nehemiah 9:1-38; John 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47; Romans 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-3.

CREATION

That out of his love, wisdom, and power, God created all things, speaking them into existence. On earth he established a kingdom, where everything was very good, holy, and flourishing, sustained and cared for by him. As the crown of his creation, God made human beings, male and female, in his image, giving us stewardship over his kingdom, inviting us into his work, rest, and love.

Genesis 1:1-3; 1:26-31; Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 8:1-9; 33:4-6; Proverbs 8:22-31; Isaiah 45:18; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17.

REBELLION

That the first humans rejected God's rule, alienating all humanity from God and fracturing the world placed under their care. As a result, the image of God is distorted in each one of us as we seek to live apart from our Creator, leaving all of creation marked by sin and death, under God's righteous judgment, subject to spiritual forces of evil, and without hope in the world apart from God's grace and mercy.

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, 16-19; 6:5-6; Psalm 51:1-5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:18-25; 3:22-23; 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; James 1:14-15.

RESCUE

That despite our rebellion against him, God has been working throughout history to rescue the world from ruin and renew human beings to their high and noble position as his image-bearers. God has ultimately rescued us from sin, his righteous judgment, and spiritual evil through his Son, Jesus Christ, the true image of God, who became human, dying in our place on the cross, rising from the grave, conquering death, and ascending to heaven where he reigns as King over all the earth. This is the gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ. All who give their allegiance to him will receive forgiveness and new life with God.

Genesis 3:15; 9:1-17; 12:1-3; Exodus 2:23-25; 19:1-6; 2 Samuel 7:8-16; Jeremiah 34:14-16; Ezekiel 36:22-28; Matthew 1:20-23; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:16-22; Acts 3:22-39; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Colossians 1:12-14, 19-23; Philipians 2:5-11; Hebrews 10:11-14; 2 Peter 1:3-4.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

That after ascending to heaven, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to renew the image of God in believers, enable us to grow in Christlikeness, and empower the church for ministry and mission. As the unseen yet active presence of God in the world, the Holy Spirit awakens the hearts and minds of people to love, trust, and hope in Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Genesis 1:1-2; Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 3:5-8; 16:7-11; Acts 1:8; 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 5:23; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Titus 3:5.

THE CHURCH

That all people from every place and age who have been rescued by Jesus are united together in his universal Church. The local church, as one expression of this worldwide Church, is a gathered body of those who are being renewed by the Holy Spirit, to worship God according to the Word of God, display the goodness of Jesus's kingdom in their shared life, and declare the good news to all peoples in word and works until Jesus returns again.

Matthew 16:13-19; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 11:19-26; 13:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 3:7-12, 20-22; 4:11-16; Colossians 3:5-17; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 10:19-25; 1 Peter 2:9-10.

RE-CREATION

That Jesus will return to fully establish his kingdom on earth, put an end to humanity's rebellion, rightly judge all people, fix what is wrong in creation, and live with his people forever. As we wait in hope for the renewed heavens and earth, we partner now with the Holy Spirit in bringing transformation into every aspect of our lives.

Matthew 24:44; 25:26; Acts 1:9-11; 17:31; Romans 6:22; 8:19-22; 14:17; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 15:50-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 11:15; 21:1-22:5.



✕ Scan the QR code to see the full Statement of Faith.

A photograph of a modern church interior. A man in a dark jacket stands at a wooden podium on a raised platform, addressing a congregation. Behind him is a large, colorful stained glass window. The church has a high ceiling with exposed wooden beams and several long, cylindrical pendant lights. The foreground shows the backs of people seated in the pews, looking towards the speaker. The text 'Why do we exist?' is overlaid in large white letters, with a vertical line to the left of the first word. Below the main title, the word 'VISION' is written in smaller white capital letters.

Why do we exist?

VISION

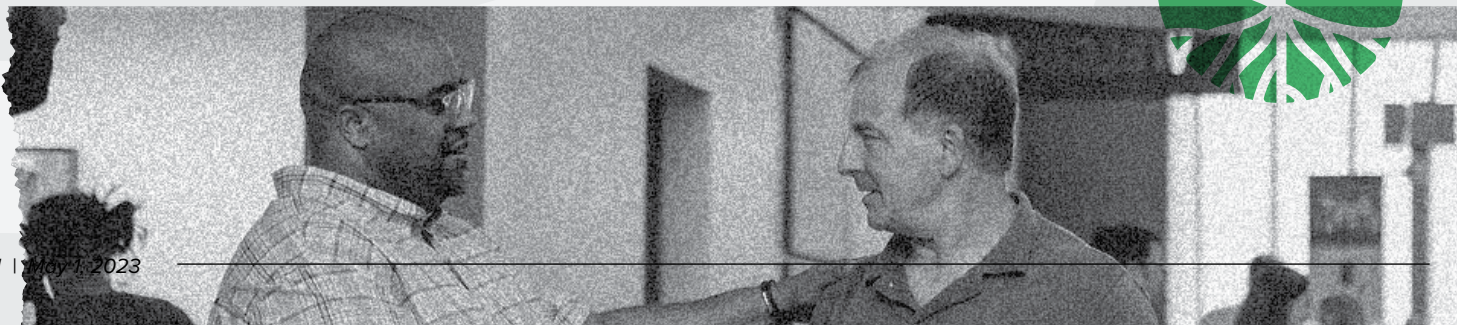
WHY DO WE EXIST?

Our Hearts **REFRESHED** by Christ's Presence.





Our Relationships **RENEWED** by Christ's Purpose





Our Lives **REBUILT** by Christ's Power



WHY DO WE EXIST?





Our Communities **RESTORED** by Christ's People



What must we do?

MISSION

We invite people to **PLANT** in commitment,
ROOT in relationship, **GROW** in discipleship,
and **MULTIPLY** in service.



PLANT



ROOT



GROW



MULTIPLY



In order to produce and reproduce the fruit of the Spirit one must have a relationship with Christ. He is our power source. Our first desire is for people to be captured by His love and submit their lives to Him.

We also uphold the importance of planting with a local gathering of Christ-followers in fellowship and commitment. We call this “church membership”: a covenant relationship between a local church and a Christian that affirms one’s profession of faith in Jesus and their commitment to and unity with this local expression of the Universal Church.

This is not the kind of membership that we find at Costco or a country club that is transactional. Rather, this membership elevates unity in diversity. God did not redeem us merely for ourselves but to belong to a greater community in which the different members help us know and understand God in ways that we would not be able to on our own.

Can a seed root that has not been planted? Can it grow when it is floating in the wind? Can it benefit from the water and nutrients in good soil when it is constantly moving from place to place? Of course it cannot.

When we PLANT in a covenant relationship with Christ and then in a local church, we are willingly placing ourselves in the best possible environment for care and cultivation.

We will regularly and passionately call those who follow Christ and attend Refresh Community Church to PLANT through the commitment first to Jesus, and then to church membership.



A tree's root system is often overlooked, but its intricacies determine the tree's health and its ability to stay anchored and upright in a storm. Healthy roots are persistent, can literally grow through rocks, all in an effort to provide the tree with what it needs.

...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge...

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

The greatest fertilizer for the life of the Christian is love. Christ's "never-stopping, never-giving up, always and forever love" is fuel for our existence. As He loves us, we are able to love Him. That cycle makes us able to love one another.

We aim to cultivate an environment where the deepest, widest, strongest roots can anchor us. This happens within deep, meaningful relationships. God's created us for community, to enjoy being with him and sharing life with one another. This is his great delight.

In relationships we serve one another in times of need, repent to one another in times of struggle and encourage one another to walk in faithfulness to Jesus. We can remind one another of our purpose and speak the Gospel to our pain and our doubts.

These relationships should stand in contrast to that of common friendships in that their source is Christ who is the sustainer of all life and our eternal Living Water.

We invite people to build new relationships in Life Groups that can lead to true community and deep roots.





Trees were created with purpose. Healthy trees support life. They protect. They offer shelter. But a tree cannot do what it was created to do unless it grows. **Once we have planted and are rooted in relationship with God his people, growth is almost inevitable.** But the amount and pace of growth is determined by the absorption of the right nutrients.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season , and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

PSALM 1:3

Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

1 TIMOTHY 4:15

The knowledge of Christ and the ability to imitate Him is evidence of healthy growth in a Christian. God desires our transformation in character, conduct, actions and attitudes. This growth is often described as spiritual growth, but it also impacts the mental, emotional and physical life. It comes as a result of prayer, the study of God's word and other spiritual habits. These are the necessary ingredients to facilitate the maturation meant for us, so that we as image bearers and Christ imitators can live out our purpose.

We dedicate time and opportunities, in addition to Sunday Service, to immerse ourselves in God's word together at Grow Night and/ or in our Grow Groups.



There is no greater indicator of a tree's health than the harvest of its fruit. A tree that is barely surviving does not have the enough reserves to reproduce. Its reach and impact are limited. Fruit, however, creates a life cycle that can last generations.

And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.

EZEKIEL 47:12

The scripture often uses “fruit” to describe a person’s outward behaviors that are sourced in the condition of the heart. We bear the fruit of our source. If we live and love and serve in our own strength, our fruit will be as limited as we are. Yet when our good works and behavior are nourished by Jesus, His church and His Word, the quality and reach of that fruit has no limits.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

JOHN 15:1-3

A life of fruitfulness is our aim. Our outward behaviors should make a watching world curious. Our Spirit-empowered efforts should bring about restoration and renovation. The Church exists to worship God and participate in His transforming mission to redeem, renew, and reconcile hearts, lives, communities and cultures. As God sent Jesus, He then invites and sends us, broken and imperfect, to join Him in these good works.

We provide opportunities to exercise this fruitfulness through service on our Home Team. We glorify God when we use our gifts to serve one another in the body of Christ, our relationships, our workplaces, our neighborhoods and the nations.

RECAP

What must we do?



PLANT in Commitment



ROOT in Relationship



GROW in Discipleship



MULTIPLY in Service.



What will we prioritize?

PRIMARY TOOLS



HOLY SPIRIT GUIDANCE

We prioritize prayer and a regular invitation for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide beyond our strategy.



PROPHETIC PREACHING

We prioritize speaking convictional truth to this people, in this time and in this place.



WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

We prioritize discipling the whole person, body, mind and spirit, for their whole life, womb to tomb.



FAMILY BUILDING

We prioritize being a spiritual family living out the “one- anothers” in community while promoting practices that cultivate family health both within the church and at home.



GIFT CULTIVATION

We prioritize developing people to understand and do what God created them to do.



TRANSCULTURAL WORSHIP

We prioritize a Sunday morning worship experience that transcends culture preferences and reaches the hearts of many, by the power of the Holy Spirit.




COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We prioritize locking arms with those who are invested in loving this community.



CULTURE CREATION

We prioritize and embrace cultivation and creation as a posture toward our gifts and an imitation of our Creator. We believe that the only way to change culture is to make more of it.



How must we behave?

VIRTUES

HOSPITALITY

We pray for felt encounters with Jesus.

- We make time to be with people. • We treat guests with intentional kindness.
- We prioritize safety, beauty and joy in our spaces. • We intentionally honor and celebrate people.

OWNERSHIP

We pray for fortitude.

- We are passionate about what we do here. • We take initiative where we see need.
- We admit mistakes, learn from them and don't shift blame. • We are honest and authentic in how God created us.

MULTIPLICATION

We pray for fruitfulness.

- We live and work in ways that can be imitated. • We look for opportunities to learn and grow.
- We call people in, see their gifts and build them up. • We strategically delegate.

EXECUTION

We pray for faithfulness

- We honor our commitments and come prepared. • We set and pursue goals
- We steward time and resources. • We step into needs, even beyond our areas of responsibility.

RISK-TAKING

We pray for fearlessness.

- We stretch past our comfort zone. • We lean into challenges, not away.
- We speak hard truth in love. • We extend forgiveness to others and ourselves



Who does what?

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Our ability to be effective in achieving this vision is dependent on the right combination of calling, gifts and responsibilities.

This section illustrates how our church functions and makes decisions.

Refresh Community Church will be:

EMPOWERED by **Jesus Christ**, the Chief Shepherd and the Rock upon which this Church is built.

OVERSEEN by the **Board of Pastors**, biblically qualified servant-leaders, responsible for the guarding of doctrine and shepherding of its people. The Board of Pastors also serves as the church's governance and fiduciaries.

LEAD by the **Lead Pastor**, a member and leader of The Board of Pastors who serves as the primary visionary, prophetic voice and organizational leader of the church.

PROTECTED

by the **Pastoral Council**, a group of experienced Pastors who lead or have led outside of Refresh Community Church and support the Board of Pastors by providing prayer, focused care and accountability for the Lead Pastor.

SERVED by the **Staff** and **Deacons**:

Deacons: biblically qualified servant-leaders who are appointed by the elders and have committed themselves to serving the needs of the church, and setting an example for others who serve in their particular area of giftedness (Finance, Care, Ministry etc).

Staff: individuals hired based on experience and expertise to execute and equip the members for the work of ministry through catalyzation, specialization and multiplication.

