



Welcome
to
Cityview Church

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Welcome

We are delighted that you are interested to learn more about Cityview Church. The following document is meant to serve as a general overview of who we are as a church. Whether you are looking for a church home, or are simply curious, this document can give you a wide-angle picture of Cityview.

Our Story

Cityview Church was started in 1952 with the name Taxville Full Gospel Church by Eli Stough and Ralph Klinedinst after they had met in homes for some months. The church name was changed in 1981 to Christian Life Center (CLC). In 2001 the church was moved to its current location, overlooking York city and took on the name Cityview Community Church.

A more detailed history is on our website at "<https://www.cityviewyork.com/pages/story>".

Doctrine – What do we believe?

Doctrinal statement

The following doctrinal statement is an excerpt of the Cityview Church bylaws:

We accept the Scriptures as our authority in matters of faith and practice and adopt the following Confession of Faith as our interpretation of Bible Doctrine:

THE WORD OF GOD: We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. *II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31, 32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32.*

THE TRINITY: We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. *Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5, 6.*

GOD THE FATHER: We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. *Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1, 2; 2:5, 6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6.*

JESUS CHRIST: We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. *Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16.*

THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. *John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26, 27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26.*

REGENERATION: We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life. *Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Ecclesiastes. 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 19:3, 20; 20:10, 14, 15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1.*

THE CHURCH: We believe in the universal Church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. *Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25.*

THE ORDINANCES: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-26.*

THE LAST THINGS: We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. *Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:15; II Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 4:5; I Corinthians 15; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15.*

[The Bible](#)

We look to the Bible as our final authority for revelation of God and His truth. We are committed to make this the judge of our beliefs. We do not sit in judgment of the Bible, but in an attitude of reverence and humility try to understand and apply it to our lives and relationships with God. We understand that Scripture will at times come in conflict with our corrupted culture and personal beliefs, and in those circumstances look to bring our thinking into line with Scripture as opposed to looking for ways to bend Scripture to meet our culture or personal beliefs. We are easily deceived and therefore cling firmly to God's unchanging Word.

[The Church Age](#)

We believe that the modern church is still in the same period of God's history as the early church that we read about in the New Testament. Therefore, we seek to directly apply the New Testament to our current context. We don't see a biblical basis to think that things are meant to be different at Cityview than what we read in Acts and the Epistles. We do not hold to the concept that God is leading the church differently in any area today than He did in the New Testament era.

[Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit](#)

In the New Testament we see where God desires all His children to have the Fruits of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. These are the result of spending time with Jesus, and in the picture painted in John 15, abiding in the vine.

He also chooses to distribute the Gifts of the Spirit to those whom He chooses for the building up of the church. At Cityview we do not differentiate between "sign gifts," such as tongues, prophecy, words of knowledge, miracles, and other giftings, such as teaching or administration. We see no such differentiation in Scripture.

[Faith and Suffering](#)

We believe Scripture to teach us to walk in faith. We pray by faith, believing God to act in miraculous ways. We pray for provision to the God who provides.

We do not, however, understand Scripture to teach that we will always receive a "yes" from God. We also see in Scripture where God, in His sovereignty, chose not to heal. We also see that God's way includes a cross. It often results in suffering this side of Heaven.

So we pray, believing God to act, yet submitting to Him, knowing that His ways are truly higher than our own.

[Free will/Predestination](#)

We believe Scripture to teach that God, in His sovereignty, decided to give humankind the choice to follow or reject Him. At some point, each person capable of choosing right from wrong will sin due to the pull of the sinful nature inherited from Adam and Eve, and thus bring condemnation on themselves. God died for all, makes salvation available to all, and so the Holy Spirit draws people to repentance without forcing them to follow Jesus. We have the high calling of inviting all to follow Christ.

We believe Scripture to teach that a follower of Jesus continues to have choice after becoming a new creation, and that, with persistent, willful rejection of God they are able to throw off their salvation and once again be lost and destined for Hell.

[Gender callings](#)

We believe that Scripture differentiates between men and women's role in the church, and seek to obey this extremely countercultural principle. We believe men are called to be the primary leaders of the church. Women also have giftings in all areas of ministry as well, including leadership and teaching, and we seek to see them flourish in using those giftings within a biblical framework.

[End times](#)

We take a premillennial stance in regard to the end times, and may have varying views on when the rapture will take place, whether at the beginning, middle, or end of the 7-year tribulation.

Vision – What is God's calling for Cityview?

Matthew 28 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

[Evangelism: Reaching the lost with God's good news](#)

The location of this building as well as the name of this church reflects this desire to go and make disciples of all nations, beginning with those right around us. We want to bring them to a place of receiving salvation and demonstrating this with baptism.

[Discipleship: Growing together in maturity in our walk with God](#)

The Great Commission calls us to make disciples; not simply converts. This involves teaching followers of Christ to observe everything that God commands of us. We long to grow together, challenging each other to deeper understanding and application of God's truth as revealed in Scripture.

[Worship: Loving our God of relationship](#)

The God who calls us to full obedience also promises to be with us always, to the end of the age! We long to foster a vibrant relationship with this self-sacrificing, holy, creator God who is

with us through all of life's ups and downs. We see this relationship founded in Scripture and expressed in worship, prayer, and commitment to follow wherever He leads.

[Fellowship: Being the body of Christ to one another in the church](#)

The Great Commission was given to a group that would become the church. We are called in many Scriptures to care for and build one another up. This is not simply the responsibility of church leaders, but of every member in this church. We want this church to be a place where people share each other's lives with each other; not only come for a Sunday service.

Values – What do we hold closely to?

[Word and Spirit](#)

In 1996, the church purchased a windy hill overlooking the city of York. When construction of the building began, the site was found to be solid rock and dynamite was needed to prepare for building. These two aspects of the church location, built on a rock and exceedingly windy, represent our desire to stay securely founded on the truth of Scripture while being blown by the wind of the Holy Spirit.

Being a "Word" church means that we come to Scripture with an attitude of submission and a desire to apply the truth we read to our lives. We do not read the Bible to critique it but to receive it. We recognize that this commitment to Scripture will at times put us at odds with the culture around us. We also seek to understand how to apply these unchanging timeless truths to our current context, similar to how a church in the far reaches of missionary activity in the first century would have applied it to their non-Greek and non-Jewish context.

Being a Spirit church means that we welcome the Holy Spirit to direct our lives and our Sunday services, even if it is different than what we have planned. 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 describes a flexible but orderly service that we desire to model our services after. We seek to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, not relying on past experiences with God to carry us through life. When we believe God is speaking to us in a way other than through Scripture, we test this with Scripture and other believers. These words are not inspired Scripture so they require testing before being received as God's word to us.

[Plural leadership](#)

In the New Testament church model, we find the elders/overseers in each local church are given the oversight and the responsibility to shepherd, or pastor. With the elders or overseers always listed in the plural, we have structured Cityview to also be led by a group of men. We call them elder/pastors to keep to the Biblical definition of "elder" while communicating to our modern culture their role as pastors.

This also keeps a single pastor from being seen as "the guy." We do not desire to build a church around a single personality, as this is not the biblical model and seems unhealthy both for that leader and for the church.

[Priesthood of all believers](#)

We stress that God deals directly with every believer. There is no liaison, or person, in between. It is our role as leaders to bring people past us to Jesus. If people's loyalty to us as leaders is such that they "would follow us off a cliff," then we are not doing a sufficient job of keeping loyalty placed on Jesus rather than man.

However, the calling to church leadership is one the Pastor/Elder team takes seriously. We are to "shepherd the flock that is among us." We are to spiritually nourish, protect, care for, and encourage the body as people who will give account of ourselves to God for this task entrusted to us.

[Releasing members into ministry](#)

As we disciple new believers into maturity, we fully expect to see them begin to flourish in the giftings God has given them. This results in a natural growth into ministry. We resist the pull to bringing in professionals to "do church" for us. Those of us gathered together are the church, and God will provide the leadership we need in various ministries if we are obedient in discipleship growth. There are times, however, where an outside person may become involved, such as Paul, Timothy, or Titus did in the New Testament, but we see that as not being the norm for a healthy church. For this reason, we will generally invite people to be among as members before we invite them into a leadership role.

[Dependency on God](#)

We never want to take pride in who we are as a church, but to stay in desperate dependency on God to be present in power in our lives through the week as well as in our services. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. We want to exhibit corporate humility as we ask God to do His work among us.

[Prayer](#)

We believe the work of God through the church will grow out of prayer. We prioritize prayer in elder/pastor meetings and encourage members to have vibrant prayer lives and see our weekly prayer meeting on Sunday mornings as one of the most crucial parts of the service.

[Service](#)

We desire to see every member of Cityview to have a place where they can serve according to their giftings. Service is not means of feeling better about ourselves, but as a way to practically express our love for God.

[Relationships](#)

The identity of Cityview Church is in the people that make up the church. It is not defined by the facility in which we meet. More broadly, the kingdom of God is made up of people. Christ died for people, and they are the target of the Great Commission. If programs replace people as the focus of the church, we will find ourselves a dry, human institution.

Practice – How are our doctrine, vision, and values demonstrated?

Church organization

While there is a lead elder/pastor, every person on the team has the same vote. The elder/pastor responsibilities are given to the various members on the team based on their availability and giftings. They are the “overseers” of the church.

A deacon team operates to take care of the physical needs of the church members and church building.

Christ			
Elder/Pastors		Ministries	
Elder/Pastor		Preaching	Counseling
Elder/Pastor		Prayer	Visitation
Elder/Pastor		Men's ministry	Women's ministry
Elder/Pastor (Lead)	Deacons	Children's ministry	Special needs ministry
Elder/Pastor (Secretary)	Deacon	Service planning	Prayer Chain
Elder/Pastor	Deacon	Website/Social Media	Sound/Video
	Deacon (Lead)	Facility	Administration
	Deacon	Gifts to needy	Offering
	Deacon	Meals	Bread Distribution
		Life groups	Worship
		Youth ministry	Outreach/missions
		Greeters/hospitality	
		Safety	Fellowship
		Finance	Cleaning

Christ			
Elder/Pastors		Ministries	
Elder/Pastor Gary		Preaching Troy	Counseling Troy
Elder/Pastor Melvin		Prayer Elders	Visitation L.G. leaders/elders
Elder/Pastor (Lead) Troy	Deacons	Men's ministry Rich	Women's ministry Karen & Charity
Elder/Pastor (Secretary) Rich	Deacon	Children's ministry Rich/Betty (VBS Sean)	Special needs ministry
Elder/Pastor	Deacon (Lead) Rich	Service planning Troy, Steve, Gary	Prayer Chain Betty
	Deacon	Website/Social Media Stacey	Sound/Video Steve
	Deacon	Facility Deacon Team	Administration Rich/Betty
		Gifts to needy Rich/elders	Offering Gary
		Meals Betty	Bread Distribution Annette
		Life groups Gary	Worship Steve
		Youth ministry Troy (Dwight)	Outreach/missions Elder Team
		Greeters/hospitality Rich	
		Safety Sean	Fellowship Rich
		Finance Rich	Cleaning Annette

[Sermons](#)

We largely preach expository sermons based on a passage of Scripture, often as a part of a larger message series. However, we also utilize topical sermons. We see both as being valid and based on the Bible.

[Life Groups](#)

We encourage all members to be a part of a Life Group. These smaller groups meet in homes or at the church and share life more intimately together. They are places to share life and pray for one another.

[Affiliation](#)

While we are a non-denominational church, and all decisions are made within the local elder/pastor team, we are affiliated with Confluence, a USA branch of NewFrontiers church, whose primary leadership is in England. More information can be found at <https://www.confluencechurches.org/>

Related Documents

[Church Bylaws](#)

[Membership Document](#)