**COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP**

**Mahtowa, MN**

**Identity Statement**

**A. Overview**

**The Lake Superior Covenant Camp Association founded Covenant Park Bible Camp in 1940. The Camp is owned by the thirteen churches of the Lake Superior District of the Evangelical Covenant Church and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of members of the ownership churches.**

**B. Mission**

**Covenant Park seeks to be a place “where friend meets friend and both meet God.” The work of the Camp is to “present the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to call all persons into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to encourage spiritual growth, discipleship and the fellowship of believers.”**

**The mission of Covenant Park is to strengthen love for Christ and others through positive relationships, experiences and memories.**

**C. Foundational Beliefs**

**1. The centrality of the word of God: We believe the Bible is the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. The dynamic, transforming power of the word of God directs the church and the life of each Christian. This reliance on the Bible leads us to affirm both men and women as ordained ministers and at every level of leadership. It is the reason we pursue ethnic diversity in our church and is the inspiration for every act of compassion, mercy, and justice.**

**2. The necessity of the new birth in Christ: The Apostle Paul wrote, “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17, TNIV). New birth in Christ means committing ourselves to him and receiving forgiveness, acceptance, and eternal life. It means being alive in Christ, and this life has the qualities of love and righteousness, joy and peace. New birth is only the beginning. Growing to maturity in Christ is a lifelong process for both individuals and communities of believers. God forms and transforms us—and it is through people transformed by Christ that God transforms the world.**

**3. The church as a fellowship of believers: The early Covenanters were known as “Mission Friends”**

**people of shared faith who came together to carry out God’s mission both far and near. Mission for them and for us includes evangelism, Christian formation, and ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice. We follow Christ’s two central calls. The Great Commission sends us out into all the world to make disciples. The Great Commandment calls us to love the Lord our God and our neighbors as**

**ourselves.**

**4. A commitment of the whole mission of the church: Membership in the Covenant Church is by confession of personal faith in Jesus Christ and is open to all believers. We observe baptism and**

**Holy Communion as sacraments commanded by Jesus. We practice both infant and believer baptism. We believe in the priesthood of all believers—that is, we all share in the ministry of the church. We**

**also affirm that God calls some men and women into professional, full-time ministry. The church is not an institution, organization, or building. It is a grace-filled fellowship of believers who participate**

**in the life and mission of Jesus Christ. It is a family of equals: as the New Testament teaches that within Christian community there is to be neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but all are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).**

**5. A conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit: The Covenant Church affirms the Trinitarian understanding of one God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The New Testament tells us that the Holy Spirit works both within individuals and among them. We believe it is the Holy Spirit who instills in our hearts a desire to turn to Christ, and who assures us that Christ dwells within us. It is the Holy Spirit who enables our obedience to Christ and conforms us to his image, and it is the Spirit in us**

**that enables us to continue Christ’s mission in the world. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to us as individuals and binds us together as Christ’s body.**

**6. The reality of freedom in Christ: The Apostle Paul wrote, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1, TNIV). This freedom is a gift of God in Christ, and it manifests itself in a right relationship with God and others. It is not a private gift to be used selfishly, but is given to serve the community and the world. For Paul, this freedom means that we are set free from the power of those things that on their own tend to divide. United in Christ, we offer freedom to one another to differ on issues of belief or practice where the biblical and historical record seems to allow for a variety of interpretations of the will and purposes of God. We in the Covenant Church seek to focus on what unites us as followers of Christ, rather than on what divides us.**

**[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**7. Statement on Marriage and Sexuality: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably created each person as male or female. Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God in the person.**

**We believe the Scriptures teach us that we are to be celibate in singleness and that sex is designed for marriage between one man and one woman. [[2]](#footnote-2)**

**Covenant Park will reflect these sincerely held beliefs in all aspects of its operations, including teachings, hiring practices, housing/bathroom accommodations, counsel and views expressed and taught, and in the ceremonies, events and activities conducted on its grounds.**

**D. Our Values**

 **Our values are the beliefs, convictions and principles that inform our goals, programs and activities.**

 **1. Wonder and Worship**

 **2. Friends and Memories**

 **3. Peaceful and Playful**

 **4. Excellent and Experiential**

 Amended and Approved June 6, 2022

1. *(Reference: https://covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/CovenantAffirmationsBriefForm.pdf?utm\_source=test&utm\_medium=website&utm\_content=brochure\_english&utm\_campaign=affirmations\_download)A full version of this statement is available upon request.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A full version of this policy statement on Marriage and Sexuality is available upon request. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)