



# PORT COMMUNITY CHURCH

## STATEMENTS OF BELIEF & PRACTICE

Port Republic, NJ 08241

Established 2019

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### Statement of Vision (Who we are)

We exist to know, love, and serve God through a relationship with Jesus Christ that also leads us to love others as ourselves. (Matthew 22:37-40)

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### Statement of Mission (What we do)

As A Congregation We Strive To—

- **Study and live by God's Word.**

The Bible is God's book given to us to guide us in our life's journey. Taking time to read and study the Bible is important for Christians. We do so in community so that God's Spirit can work to make us stronger together. (2 Timothy 3:16)

- **Welcome without judgment.**

The Bible teaches that we are to use wise judgment guided by God's Spirit, but only when necessary and always with grace, mercy, and love. We do this without a critical spirit and condemning words. The church is a safe place to seek God, learn from Christ, and confess (turn from) our sins.

(Matthew 7:1-5) (Matthew 7:15-17)

- **Love without condition.**

The Bible says that loving others is the second greatest commandment. The only condition Jesus put on this is that we follow His example of love that leads to obedience of God's Word.

(Matthew 22:37-40) (Matthew 7:24-27)

- **Forgive without reservation.**

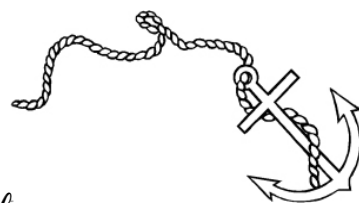
Jesus offers forgiveness to everyone: His sacrificial life, death, and resurrection are a gift from God that take away the guilt of all our sins (mistakes and failures) and free us to be the people God created us to be. Placing our faith in Jesus Christ is the only way for this to happen. Freely and fully forgiving others also heals the one who forgives.

(Matthew 6:14-15)

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### Statement on Biblical Authority

Given the current challenges to the unique place of the Bible in the Church, we affirm that the core of the Christian faith is revealed in Scripture as "the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3; NRSV). We look to the Bible therefore as our authority and trustworthy guide, which "is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16; NRSV). The revelation of Scripture is the Church's primary and final authority on all matters of faith and practice.



*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." -Hebrews 6:19*

## Statement of Faith – What We Believe



We affirm classical Wesleyan doctrine and the historic faith, which the church has used to define the parameters of Christian teaching. Doctrine, properly understood, unifies the church and gives direction to its life. All the members of our church affirm the following:

### **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

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We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven:

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by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Statement of Moral Principles

Given our current time and context, we highlight and affirm the following moral principles, acknowledging that other moral principles may merit our further attention.

### Human Value

We believe that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection from conception through natural death. We believe that God created humans in His image and likeness. Therefore, all people are of sacred worth. (Genesis 1:26-28) (Psalm 139:13-16)

Therefore, we gladly welcome all who seek to grow in their relationship with God, to attend worship services, and to participate in the church's ministries. No person shall be disqualified from becoming a member of our local congregation, or holding a leadership position in the church, based on race, color, nationality, national origin, marital status, or economic condition. (Galatians 3:28)

Scripture teaches that men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. Accordingly, the church should treat women and men equally. We believe that both women and men are called to and gifted for ministry and leadership within our congregation. (Galatians 3:28)

### Human Dignity

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual or group are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture. (Matthew 7:12) (Galatians 5:22-23)

### Marriage and Sexuality

We believe marriage and sexual intimacy are good gifts from God. In keeping with Christian teaching through the ages and throughout the Church universal, we believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe that God intends faithfulness in marriage and celibacy in singleness. (Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15-25) (Reaffirmed: Matthew 19:4-5)

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*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

– Romans 12:2