



## MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

### I. Personal/Family Information

a. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

c. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e. E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

f. Children's Names	Birthdate	Grade
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### II. Church Background

a. Are you a member of any other church? Yes No

i. If Yes,

1. What church? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Were you baptized as an infant? Yes No

3. Were you baptized as an adult? Yes No

4. Have you made a public profession of faith? Yes No

5. Have your children been baptized? Yes No

### III. Church Life

a. Have you become involved in any activities at Heritage? Yes No

i. If yes, please list \_\_\_\_\_

b. Are you a member of a small group? Yes No

i. Would you like to join one? Yes No

c. People I have come to know: \_\_\_\_\_



#### **IV. Membership Covenant**

- a. As a member of Heritage Christian Reformed Church, I agree to the following:
  - i. I accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.
  - ii. I believe the Bible is the Word of God.
  - iii. I promise to do all I can with the help of the Holy Spirit to support the ministry of Heritage CRC with
    1. my prayers for the church,
      - a. I Thessalonians 1:2 We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.
    2. my presence at worship and other ministries,
      - a. Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching
    3. my gifts of financial support,
      - a. I Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made
    4. and my service to God's kingdom by volunteering to serve in at least one ministry area.
      - a. I Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
  - iv. I promise to support and submit to the leaders of the church, and if I should become delinquent in my doctrine or lifestyle, I agree to submit to the discipline of the church.

I desire to become a member of Heritage Christian Reformed Church. I have read and agree to the Membership Covenant.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## Public Profession of Faith

Preparing for your conversation with the elders:

- 1. Please come prepared to comment on the meaning and importance of Ephesians 2:8-10**

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- 2. Please come prepared to read one of your favorite Bible verse(s) and be ready to share why that verse(s) is important to you.**



## Summary Truths of Scripture related to the Christian Life

### God

God is a spirit.

God is also referred to as the Trinity.

**The Trinity** is the three person partnership of the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Father is generally seen as our Creator and Sustainer.

The Son is generally seen as responsible for our salvation.

The Holy Spirit is generally seen as our comforter, encourager, and motivator, and lives in our hearts.

We learn about God from two sources. **The Bible** and nature. The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy in II Timothy 3:16-17, that *"all Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

The Bible is the Word of God and God reveals himself and the way of salvation throughout the Bible. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write down the words of the Bible and guided them as they wrote.

God commands, invites, and encourages followers of Christ to spend time on a regular basis reading His Word and studying it with others in the church. What are your normal patterns for interaction with God's Word?

The Bible also teaches that God reveals himself in His creation. The Psalmist declares in Psalm 19:1-2 that *"the heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge."*

God also makes himself known to us through **prayer**. Jesus taught the disciples to pray with the Lord's Prayer. God also commands, invites, and encourages followers of His Son Jesus to pray often. The Apostle Paul encourages believers to pray always, giving thanks to God for everything. What is your normal pattern for communicating with God in prayer?

### Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God.

He died on the cross for the sins of the world and was raised to life to win the victory over the devil and evil in the world. Now He reigns over the world at the right hand of God. He is my personal Savior because he died for my sins, and has secured the victory over evil in my life.

Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man. We do not understand this mystery, but realize that it was necessary for one without sin to pay the price for those who have sinned. Only God's Son could live a life without sin.

*"Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God" (II Cor. 5:21 NCV).*

### Sin

A transgression of God's law. Living outside of God's will. Disobedience to the teachings of Scripture and Christ.

Sin breaks our relationship with God. Adam, our forefather, was the first to sin and break his relationship with God. We inherit Adam's sinful nature and are born inclined to hate God and our neighbor. Scripture teaches that *"all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"* (Romans 6:23). Therefore, everyone is guilty of sin



and deserving of God's punishment on sin. The only way to be relieved of our guilt is to follow Jesus, live for him, put our faith in him, and he will bear the punishment for our guilt on the cross.

### **Faith**

Faith is not only a knowledge and conviction that everything God reveals in his Word is true; it is also a deep-rooted assurance, created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, not only others, but I too, have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation

### **Salvation**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:16-18)*

Believing in Jesus is the only way to be saved from eternal death, and also from a meaningless life on earth. We are not saved because of anything that we do ourselves, but because what God has done for us in Christ.

Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians, *"For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* (Ephesians 2:8-10)

It is only through faith in Jesus Christ that we are saved.

### **Grace**

Grace is best understood as a gift. God acts toward us in a favorable way even though we don't deserve it. Another way to understand grace is to remember one word for each letter in the word. This way, grace can be defined as **God's Riches At Christ Expense**.

### **Sacraments**

There are two sacraments. They are holy signs and seals for us to see. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them he might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and might put his seal on that promise. And this is God's gospel promise: to forgive our sins and give us eternal life by grace alone because of Christ's one sacrifice finished on the cross (Heidelberg Q&A 66). There are two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism was instituted by Jesus and in Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."*

And in I Corinthians 11:23-26, Paul records the instructions he received from Christ regarding the Lord's Supper, *"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*



Becoming a member of the catholic or worldwide church of Christ contains certain **privileges** and **responsibilities**.

The privileges include partaking in the Lord's Supper, and also becoming a part of God's family and community of believers. This community of believers commits themselves to care for you, pray for you, and grow with you in your knowledge of God. They also vow themselves to encourage you in your faith and hold you accountable to the commitment you make.

When becoming part of the church, you take on the responsibility of submitting yourself the community and offering your gifts in service to the church and the people of God and the world. God has given gifts to all of his people to be used for the building up of the body of Christ and to spread the good news of life in Jesus Christ.

When you become part of the **Christian Reformed Church in North America**, you become part of a church that traces its roots back to Pentecost. At Pentecost, God sent his Holy Spirit to the followers of Christ to comfort them, encourage them, and teach them the ways of God. For about 1000 years there was only one church - the Roman Catholic Church. After 1000 years the Church of Christ split into two branches, the Eastern and the Western Church. Heritage finds her roots in the Western branch of the Church. About 1500, the western branch experienced another split during the Reformation. Key leaders who desired to reform the church to return to the teaching of the Bible were Martin Luther and John Calvin. The main principles promoted by Luther and Calvin were the following five:

1. God's word, the Bible, is the primary source of instruction for the Christian life.
2. Christ is the only mediator between God and mankind.
3. Mankind is justified or made right with God only through faith (Ephesian 2:8-10).
4. God is sovereign. That is, God has created the world and is in control of everything.  
Nothing happens without his knowledge or permission.
5. Everything we do, in all areas of our lives should be done to God's glory. John Calvin used a Latin phrase to express this idea: "Solo Deo Gloria," which means "to God alone be the glory."

These five ideas are at the heart of the Reformation and are shared by churches that trace their roots to that branch of the Church of Christ called Reformed Churches.

In addition, churches that traces their roots through the Reformation normally adhere to three Confessions that summarize the teachings of Scripture. They are sometimes called the three forms of unity in the Christian Reformed Church. They are:

#### *The Heidelberg Catechism*

which explains the way of salvation and discusses the Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments.

The first question and answer of the Heidelberg Catechism has been cherished by believers for centuries as a statement of faith.

Q & A 1 Heidelberg Catechism

*What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

*That I am not my own, but belong - body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.*



*Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

*The Canons of Dordt* are a defense of the Reformed understanding of the way of salvation.

*The Belgic Confession* explains what the Reformed churches believed during the 1500's and still adhere to today.

We rejoice with you that God has led you to seriously consider membership in Christ's church as it finds expression in Heritage Christian Reformed Church.