



# spanish river church planting

SRC has sought to develop a network, a family, of churches that plant gospel centered churches and promote the planting of the same. As such, we covenant together around the following:

1. We agree to hold firmly to a reformed doctrinal position and to the SRCP network Doctrinal Statement in the attached addendum.
2. We agree to be a church governed by biblically qualified male elders.
3. We agree to preach clearly the Good News of the gospel in every sermon, and to make evangelism a top priority in our lives and the ministry of our church.
4. We will strive diligently to make our marriages and families one of our top priorities.
5. We will seek to become financially self-supporting as soon as possible and in accordance with the timeline presented to and approved by the SRCP Board.
  - a. While receiving financial support from SRCP, we agree not to support missions, justice causes, or other church planting projects from SRCP support. We will raise these funds through other collections if we desire to support such work.
  - b. Once we are self supporting, we will seek to give 10% of our internal offerings to planting other churches.
  - c. We will seek to raise up qualified church planters to plant other churches and extend the kingdom. We will seek to make this a permanent part of our culture and DNA.
  - d. We will give priority to helping to support other SRCP approved church plants.
6. We agree to be in attendance at the annual meetings of the SRCP network during the time of our financial support and we will seek to be involved on an ongoing basis.
7. We agree to allow the SRCP Board to arbitrate any disputes that arise between the church planter and the church's elder board of the congregation during the period of financial support.

Membership in the SRCP network is voluntary. A member church may resign at any time. However, should a church decide to alter its commitment to reformed doctrine and/or reject its commitment to male eldership, all funding must be returned to SRCP.

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

Church's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Planter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Planter's Signature of Agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The Bible**

We believe that the Bible containing the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments is the inerrant Word of God and that the words written by the authors were inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21). The Bible is our only infallible source of truth about God, about man, about where man came from and where he is going. In the Bible, God has given us what we need to know for salvation, godly and purposeful living, and a proper, though limited, understanding of him.

## **God**

There is only one true and living God. God is a spirit being and he is one in his being or substance, but within the one substance there are three separate and distinct persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, Genesis 1:1-2, Psalm 2:12). All three persons are co-eternal and are equal in majesty, glory, and power, and each is to be worshiped as God.

## **Man**

God created human beings so that he could have a people to be his own, so that he might dwell with them and be their God and they would be his people (Revelation 21:3). Man, as originally created, was connected to God and in harmony with God (Genesis 1:31).

## **Sin**

When Adam made the decision to reject God's command in the garden he and his wife Eve suffered the consequences and brought not only sin, but spiritual death, physical death and eternal death into the world. Adam and Eve lost their relationship with God and their basic natures were changed. They became predisposed to sin rather than following God. Their fallen natures were passed down to their children through natural reproduction, so that the entire human race has been infected with sin and death and all stand guilty before God (Romans 3:9-12, 19). There is nothing a person can do, in and of himself, to make himself or herself acceptable to God. Man, left to his own devices, is helpless and without hope.

## **Salvation and Jesus Christ our Savior**

God, in his love, made the decision to save some. God the Father has made it possible for men and women to come back into right relationship with himself. God sent his son into this world to make an atonement for the sins of all who would trust in Him alone for salvation.

Jesus Christ is God the Son who became a man so that he could live a perfect life and allow himself to be arrested, tried, convicted and executed (John 1:1,14, Romans 9:6). As Jesus was hanging on the cross, God the Father took our sins and put them on his Son and punished him in our place (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18). God, being just, has to punish sin, and in his love for us he punished Jesus in our place. Jesus took the wrath of God we deserve and he died. His body was put in a tomb, but on the third day he came back from the dead, never to die again (Revelation 1:17-18).

## **Salvation by grace through faith**

God is at work in the world bringing to himself a people to be his own. God the Holy Spirit works through the proclamation of the gospel to open the eyes, minds, and hearts of those who are spiritually dead so that they are able to understand their plight and trust Jesus to save them from eternal condemnation and save them to a new life lived with and for him (Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5).

## **The Church**

The Church is God's chosen means to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to make disciples who will follow him in every aspect of their lives. As such, priority should be given to the development of churches that proclaim the gospel. Jesus said he would build his church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). The church is not a building but rather is a people and their children whom God has called to himself to be his own possession and to glorify him (2 Peter 2:9).

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

One day Christ will return to earth in bodily form to judge all who have lived, and to usher in the eternal state. God will have what he set out to have from the beginning; a people to be his own, a people with whom he might live, and he will be their God and they will be his people (Revelation 21:3).