



Statement of Doctrinal Agreement

Please print neatly in ink or type.

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____
First Last mm/dd/yyyy

Purpose of Agreement

A review of the VHCC doctrinal statement (otherwise known as the VHCC "Statement of Faith") is a required part of your application to become a church member. Because we have a high view of the Scriptures and biblical doctrine, membership is in part based on agreement with the church's doctrinal statement.

Your Response

As a prospective church member, please review the VHCC doctrinal statement. After your review, select one of the following responses which best describes your agreement with our doctrinal statement:

- a. I am in full agreement with the doctrinal statement.
- b. I am in full agreement with the doctrinal statement except for the following paragraphs which are not clear to me (add a sheet if needed): _____

- c. I am in full agreement with the doctrinal statement except for the following paragraphs with which I disagree (add a sheet if needed): _____

Elder Review of Your Response

If you selected "a", your full agreement with the doctrinal statement will be noted as the elders review your membership application.

If you selected "b", the elders (usually two) will meet with you to provide an explanation of any part of the doctrinal statement you do not understand. In the space provided or on an extra sheet of paper, please identify the specific topics or paragraphs on which you would like to receive further information. Also, list questions you would like to have answered. The elders will review and discuss the doctrinal issues you identified. The elders may also recommend that you complete reading materials or informal or formal instruction to help clarify your understanding of the doctrinal areas in question.

If you selected "c", the elders (usually two) will meet with you to discuss and clarify your areas of doctrinal disagreement. Please briefly explain why you are in disagreement with the doctrinal statement in the space provided or on an extra sheet of paper. The elders will then recommend that you complete reading materials or

informal or formal instruction to help bring about agreement in the doctrinal areas in disagreement. Where doctrinal agreement can be reached, membership WILL BE recommended. Where doctrinal agreement cannot be reached, membership may be considered not in the best interest of the prospective member or the church and membership WILL NOT BE recommended at this time. In such a case, continued exposure to the teaching and preaching ministries of Valley Heights Community Church will be encouraged with the prayer that unity in the faith may be attained.

Membership Doctrinal Provisions

In order to be recommended for membership, a prospective member must agree to the following FIVE PROVISIONS:

- a. *Participation of Prospective Members and New Members.* Prospective members and new members agree to participate in new member orientation, new member Bible classes, and the teaching and preaching ministries of Valley Heights Community Church as offered.
- b. *Summary of Church Beliefs and Practice.* Prospective members and members agree that the church’s doctrinal statement is a summary of what Valley Heights Community Church believes, preaches, teaches, and practices. From time to time, doctrinal positions which are not in agreement with the church’s doctrinal statement may be identified as error or as alternate views not taught by our church.
- c. *Weakening of Doctrinal Statement or Leadership.* Prospective members and members agree not to weaken the Valley Heights Community Church’s doctrinal statement or the elders’ position or actions on a doctrinal matter consistent with the doctrinal statement. This could be done, for example, by attempting to persuade, explain, or imply to other church members or prospective church members that the doctrinal statement is in error or that church leaders or members are in error when they are teaching or acting consistent with the doctrinal statement. This provision is not intended to prevent doctrinal or theological questions or discussions in church classes or study groups led by elder approved teachers, provided such discussions are marked by a spirit of humility, gentleness, patience and love.
- d. *Change in Doctrinal Position.* Prospective members and members agree that if they change their doctrinal views to the extent that this agreement with the church doctrinal statement is no longer applicable, they will notify the elders of the change.
- e. *Honouring Your Agreement.* Prospective members and members agree to honour this agreement and that intentional or repeated member disregard of these provisions could trigger elder involvement to safeguard the doctrinal integrity of the church. Elder involvement may result in review of member actions. Remedial action, if appropriate, could include: loss of ministry responsibilities or position and in serious cases up to and including loss of membership privileges.

Signature & Agreement

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I am in full agreement with the VHCC doctrinal statement except as otherwise noted in this application. I also commit to uphold the doctrinal integrity of VHCC by acting consistently with the membership doctrinal provisions.

Applicant’s Signature: _____

Date: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Signature of Elder(s): _____

Date: _____
mm/dd/yyyy