



ON THEOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

At Allegheny Center Alliance Church, our mission is **following Jesus in diverse community**. While this is most obvious in our ethnic, generational, political, and economic diversity, we recognize that our congregation's diversity also extends to our theological perspectives.

We stand firmly on the essential doctrines of the Christian faith as expressed in the *Alliance Statement of Faith*. These foundational truths unite us as a church family and anchor us in our shared commitment to Christ. We also acknowledge that, beyond these essential beliefs, sincere followers of Jesus may hold differing convictions on secondary matters of Biblical interpretation and theological tradition.

In navigating theological diversity, we embrace the wisdom of the statement: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." This reflects our deep commitment to both grace and truth—upholding core biblical doctrine while fostering an environment where differing viewpoints on non-essential issues are met with grace, humility, and respect.

Our posture is shaped by these guiding principles:

Faithfulness to God's Word (Psalm 119:105, Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

We affirm that Scripture is our ultimate authority. While we welcome discussion and reflection on theological matters, all of our beliefs and practices must be rooted in the never-changing truth of God's Word.

Unity in the Essentials (Romans 15:5-6, Ephesians 4:4-6, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

We stand together on the core tenets of the Christian faith, as revealed in Scripture and expressed in our Statement of Faith. These doctrines define our shared identity in Christ and as members of Allegheny Center Alliance Church, as well as the denomination to which we belong: the Alliance.

Humility in the Non-Essentials (1 Corinthians 13:12, Ephesians 4:2-3, Colossians 2:16-17, Titus 3:9)

We recognize that Scripture allows room for interpretation in certain theological areas. On matters not defined in our Statement of Faith, we hold a posture of theological humility, acknowledging that our understanding deepens as we seek to be Spirit-led.

Mission Over Division (John 17:20-23, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Colossians 3:14-15)

We refuse to let differences in secondary doctrines distract us from our greater mission of following Jesus together. Our conversations about theology should reflect Christ's heart—marked by kindness, patience, and a desire for mutual edification rather than division. We commit to honoring one another as image-bearers, even in disagreement.

Together, we seek to model a faith community where unity is not built on uniformity but on our shared devotion to Christ. In a world often marked by division, we strive to be a church where believers of different backgrounds and perspectives walk together in faith, embodying the love and grace of Jesus.