



FOREST & TREES

Statement of Faith

Adopted by the Forest & Trees Perpetual Purpose Trust and 501(c)(3) Corporation

*“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his
splendor.”*

Isaiah 61:3

PREAMBLE

Forest & Trees exists to steward capital, place, and community in furtherance of a single enduring purpose: to grow and support the spiritual, physical, and mental flourishing of our neighbors through service modeled on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Statement of Faith sets forth the Christian convictions that give that purpose its shape, its power, and its staying power. It is not a fence built to keep people out. It is a foundation laid so that what is built here will still be standing, still serving, still rooted, and still fruitful long after we are gone. It is our clear intent that generosity will endure beyond a single generation through permanently aligned gospel-centered stewardship.

These articles reflect historic Christian orthodoxy as reflected in the historic creeds of the Christian faith, not denominational preference. They are meant to be held with conviction and offered with joy.

I. THE TRIUNE GOD

We believe in one God, eternally existing as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — one in essence, distinct in person, perfect in love.

God alone is the source of all things. Every good gift, every act of healing, every moment of reconciliation and restoration traces back to him. He is Creator and Sustainer, perfectly holy and perfectly loving, altogether just and altogether sovereign.

We hold nothing of our own. Everything we steward: every dollar, every acre, every relationship, every year of faithful service belongs to him and is offered back to him.

II. THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

We believe that the Bible, comprising the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, inerrant, and fully trustworthy Word of God. All Scripture is God-breathed, and it carries his authority in every word.

Scripture is the final authority for what we believe, how we live, and how we lead. We do not conform it to the spirit of the age. We conform ourselves to it, and we find that in doing so, we are not diminished but freed.

The Word is a lamp, a living voice, and a sure foundation. We receive it with gratitude.

III. THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the full deity and full humanity of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who entered creation, took on flesh, and lived among us.

We joyfully affirm:

- His miraculous birth of a virgin
- His sinless life, lived in perfect obedience
- His substitutionary death on the cross, bearing the sin of humanity in our place
- His bodily resurrection from the dead, the firstfruits of all things made new
- His ascension to the right hand of the Father
- His certain return to make all things right

Salvation is found in Christ alone, received by grace alone through faith alone. There is no other name.

IV. THE GOSPEL AND HUMAN DIGNITY

We believe that every person is made in the image of God, imago Dei, and therefore carries inherent dignity and worth. This is not earned. It cannot be forfeited. It belongs to every human being from conception to natural death.

We believe humanity is fallen and in need of redemption, and that the Gospel is God's answer: a rescue, a restoration, a new creation breaking in.

We believe the model for our work is the incarnation itself. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Jesus did not send relief from a distance. He came. He moved into the neighborhood. He ate at the tables of the forgotten, touched the untouchable, and called the overlooked by name. This is what "with and among" means, and it is the shape of everything we do.

The Gospel transforms individuals and entire communities. It compels those who have received it to love their neighbors not merely through proclamation but through presence that offers welcome, healing, relationship, and the patient work of restoration.

V. RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTICE, AND CHRISTIAN MORAL CONVICTION

We believe that righteousness and justice are never separate in Scripture. The prophet Isaiah captures it beautifully: “The fruit of righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever” (Isaiah 32:17). Right standing before God and right action in the world grow from the same root.

In keeping with historic Christian teaching, and because these convictions shape how we serve and whom we serve, we joyfully affirm:

- The inseparable pursuit of justice, mercy, and humility as expressions of a life transformed by Christ
- The call to racial and cultural unity and reconciliation as a witness to the reconciling power of the Gospel
- The sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death
- The sacredness of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman
- Sexual integrity consistent with biblical teaching

These convictions are not offered as weapons. They are offered as the joyful confession of people who have been changed by grace and who believe that only God’s design leads to human flourishing.

VI. STEWARDSHIP, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND VOLUNTARY ALIGNMENT

We believe that faithful stewardship requires faithfulness across generations — not just to the needs of today, but to the mission that will outlast us.

Accordingly, all officers, directors, Trust Advisors, and Trust Protectors of Forest & Trees shall annually affirm this Statement of Faith as a condition of their service.

Organizations that receive material financial support or long-term lease stewardship from Forest & Trees voluntarily participate in this mission. Forest & Trees does not seek to govern, control, or direct the internal affairs of the organizations it supports. That participation, however, is grounded in a shared alignment with the core Christian principles set forth here, and beneficiaries are required to attest annually to that alignment.

The Trust Protectors retain authority under the Trust Agreement to intervene if alignment with the Purpose or these foundational principles materially departs from historic Christian faith and practice. This is not an instrument of control. It is an act of love, the kind of love that plans for the future with the same care it brings to the present.

BENEFICIARY ALIGNMENT COVENANT

Annual Attestation Form

Forest & Trees exists to steward resources in furtherance of its Christian Purpose as defined in the Forest & Trees Purpose Trust. As a condition of receiving material support, lease stewardship, or investment from Forest & Trees, the undersigned certifies on behalf of the beneficiary organization that:

- The organization affirms historic Christian faith consistent with the core doctrines outlined in the Forest & Trees Statement of Faith.
- The organization’s governing documents and operational practices do not materially contradict these foundational Christian principles.
- The organization remains committed to serving individuals and communities in a manner modeled upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The organization will notify Forest & Trees of any material changes to its governing documents, leadership structure, or doctrinal commitments that may affect alignment.

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

PROTECTOR ENFORCEMENT CLARIFICATION

Internal Governance Policy

In exercising their fiduciary duty to enforce the Purpose of the Trust, the Trust Protectors shall consider:

- Whether a beneficiary organization remains materially aligned with the Statement of Faith
- Whether its governance structure reflects historic Christian convictions
- Whether its leadership decisions represent a departure from foundational Gospel principles

Protectors are not tasked with policing secondary theological matters or denominational distinctions. Intervention is appropriate only in cases of material doctrinal or ethical departure from historic Christian orthodoxy as defined herein.

A WORD TO OUR DONORS

Why a Statement of Faith?

Forest & Trees was created to ensure that Christian mission endures beyond any one leader, any one board, any funding cycle, or any cultural moment. History shows that institutions drift when founding convictions are not clearly defined and structurally protected. We have seen it happen to organizations that began with great faith and great hope.

This Statement of Faith:

- Clarifies what we mean by “modeled upon the principles taught by the Gospel of Christ”

- Provides objective alignment standards for the organizations we support
- Equips Trust Protectors to safeguard mission across generations
- Assures donors that their generosity will remain permanently anchored in historic Christian faith

This is not about narrowing the field of service. It is about preserving faithfulness so that what begins as an oak of righteousness does not become something unrecognizable to those who planted it. Forest & Trees exists so that Christian mission in underserved communities may remain rooted, resilient, and enduring — bearing fruit long into the future, for the display of his splendor.