

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is FIRE?

FIRE is a unifying network for independent Reformed (and Reforming) baptistic churches to experience mutual edification, fellowship, cooperation and prayerful support in ministries and missions.

What does FIRE believe?

We affirm the five “Solas” of the Reformation: Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone), Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), Sola Fide (Faith Alone), Solus Christus (Christ Alone), and Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone). We stand in the tradition of the historic Reformed Confessions of Faith such as *The London Baptist Confession of 1644* and *The Second London Baptist Confession of 1689*.

How does membership work?

FIRE is a network of churches, not an independent organization. There is no membership fee. Each project is initiated and overseen by a local church. Other churches may be invited to participate by

sharing their time or resources. The success of the network is dependent on the committed involvement of the members.

Who can join?

FIRE membership is open to churches and individuals who are Reformed (or Reforming) and agree with the FIRE doctrinal Statement of Faith.



Contact Information

To request an application form or for more information, visit our website or contact one of the members listed below:

FIRE Online

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

1 God and the Trinity

We believe in the one true and living God, in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who is invisible, personal, omnipresent, eternal, dependent on none, unchanging, truthful, trustworthy, almighty, sovereign, omniscient, righteous, holy, good, loving, merciful, longsuffering and gracious.

2 The Holy Scripture

We believe that Almighty God has revealed all that is necessary to life and salvation in the sixty-six books of Holy Scripture, which are the Word of God. All Scripture was given by inspiration of God, is infallible and inerrant, and is the final arbiter in all disputes. Its authority is derived from its Author and not from the opinions of men.

3 Election

We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, for His own glory did elect a great multitude of men and women to eternal life as an act of free and sovereign grace. This election was in no way dependent upon His foresight of human faith, decision, works or merit.

4 Adam Our Representative

We believe that God made our first father Adam perfect, holy and upright. He was appointed representative and head of the human race, thereby exposing all his offspring to the effects of his obedience or disobedience to God's commands.

5 The Fall and Its Effects

We believe that Adam fell from his original righteousness into sin and brought upon himself and all his offspring death, condemnation and a sinful nature.

6 Man's Inability

We believe it is utterly beyond the power of fallen man to love God, to keep His laws, to understand the gospel, to repent of sin or to trust in Christ.

7 Christ Our Representative

We believe that God sent His Son into the world, conceived of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, unchangeably sinless, both God and man, born under the law, to live a perfect life of righteousness on behalf of His elect people.

8 Particular Redemption

We believe that God's Son died at Calvary to effect propitiation, reconciliation, redemption and atonement for His elect people. God bore testimony to His acceptance of His Son's work by raising Him bodily from the dead.

9 The Ascension of Christ

We believe that God's Son ascended to the right hand of His Father and is enthroned in glory, where He intercedes on behalf of His people and rules over all things for their sake.

10 Irresistible Grace

We believe that God the Son has poured out the Holy Spirit to work alongside the preached Word. The Spirit of God regenerates elect sinners and draws them irresistibly to faith in Christ the Savior.

11 Justification

We believe the elect, who are called by grace, are justified in the sight of God on account of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is received by faith alone.

12 Perseverance

We believe that all who are regenerated, called and justified shall persevere in holiness and never finally fall away.

13 Evangelism

We believe it is the calling of every local church to participate in fulfilling the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Christ has commanded us.

14 The Church

We believe that the local church is under the authority of Christ alone. Nevertheless, He has appointed men to be elders (undershepherds) to represent Him as they care for His body. Deacons also serve Christ as His ministers of mercy. Furthermore, the communion of saints requires the recognition of and fellowship with other local evangelical churches.

15 Church Ordinances

We believe that baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances belonging only to regenerated believers.

16 Eschatology

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again to raise the dead bodily, both righteous and unrighteous, and that the righteous shall enjoy everlasting life and the wicked endure everlasting punishment.

IN ESSENTIALS
 UNITY
 IN NON-ESSENTIALS
 LIBERTY
 IN ALL THINGS
 CHARITY



IN ESSENTIALS

The **FELLOWSHIP OF INDEPENDENT REFORMED EVANGELICALS (FIRE)** is a unifying network that enables diverse Reformed pastors and congregations to come together in affirming and promoting the essentials of biblical, Reformed Christianity (see Statement of Faith). Through mutual discussion, teaching and mentorship, there are many opportunities to sharpen our understanding of these deep truths of the Bible. We believe that God is glorified through the unity of believers as we reach out beyond our local churches. We encourage member churches to support each other through prayer, fellowship, sharing resources and participating in ministry and missionary efforts together.



UNITY

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called—to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Eph 4:3-6

Unity extends beyond the pastors into the congregations of member churches. As people get to know each other, a desire to worship and serve together is often expressed. This leads to joint worship services, pulpit exchanges, prayer meetings, support of missionaries, and many other activities. Members are encouraged as they join hands with God's people throughout the world.

Traveling or moving provides a great opportunity to attend other churches and to hear what God is doing in other cities. These are all unifying experiences that enlarge our understanding of God and reveal His glory.

IN NON-ESSENTIALS

As members of FIRE, we unite around the essentials of our faith and we also celebrate the liberty we have through Christ in the non-essential areas. Unity does not require identity of thought and practice. Our God is an amazing Creator. He has uniquely made each of us and gifted us in ways that complement each other. Together, we show the world a more complete picture of who Christ is.

As we share our experiences, interests and ideas, others are challenged and inspired to grow in new areas in their church and personal lives.

LIBERTY

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of workings, but the same God works all of them in all men. 1 COR 12:4-6

FIRE has no centralized structure or authority over local churches. It is a network of churches that enhances the work of each local church. Each member has complete freedom to initiate or participate in whatever projects, conferences or other activities they choose. Each project or ministry promoted through FIRE is under the oversight of a particular local church, not FIRE itself.



IN ALL THINGS

There is a genuine spirit of sacrificial care within FIRE. With a humble spirit and mutual respect and acceptance, member churches pray for each other, support each other, help each other and work alongside each other in very practical ways.

Members share a like-minded purpose of spreading the Gospel and caring for the lost men, women and children throughout our world. People need to hear that their sins can be forgiven by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ alone.

God is raising up men and women from local Reformed churches to go and make disciples of all nations in a biblical manner. As God leads, members of FIRE have the opportunity to assist these churches prayerfully and financially to send these missionaries throughout the world. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

CHARITY

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Phil 2:1-2

FIRE seeks to strengthen and encourage fellow churches through:

- sending full-time missionaries
- short-term missions projects
- church planting
- caring for the needs of the poor
- publishing books, pamphlets, tapes and educational materials
- family camps and conferences
- pulpit exchanges
- regional and national conferences

