**A BBPC Youth Ministry Confession for the Church**

**Composed by the Youth of Bound Brook Presbyterian Church for Pentecost**

**We Believe: A Confession of the Spirit-Breathed Church**

In the power of the Holy Spirit,
we, the youth of Bound Brook Presbyterian Church,
declare what we believe the Church is called to be.
Not by our own strength or wisdom,
but by the Spirit who fills us with dreams,
who moves through our questions,
and who speaks through the voices of the young.

We believe the Church is not a building,
but a living, breathing body —
called together by God, redeemed by Christ, and empowered by the Spirit.
The Church is a community rooted in grace,
formed by compassion, and sent out in love.

We believe the Church must embody the attributes of Christ.

The Church must be **kind** —
not just in words, but in every action.
A kindness that comforts the weary, embraces the hurting, and restores the broken.

*“Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”* — Colossians 3:12

It must **care for the whole person** —
body, mind, and soul.
It must speak of mental health, teach self-worth, and affirm the sacredness of our lives.

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* — Matthew 11:28

It must nurture **friendship** that is real and lasting,
where no one is left out and everyone belongs.

*“Two are better than one... if either falls, the other will lift them up.”* — Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

The Church must be **welcoming to all** —
to the doubter and the believer, the seeker and the struggler,
across all cultures, identities, and experiences.

*“Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you.”* — Romans 15:7

It must be a place of **love and empathy**,
where trust is built, joy is shared, and hope is alive.

*“Love is patient, love is kind... it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”* — 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The Church must **encourage and inspire**,
not just entertain or inform — but stir hearts, awaken justice, and move us to worship with joy.
It must love **strangers and neighbors alike**, feeding bodies and souls.

*“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.”* — John 6:35

It must embody **togetherness** — a unity that honors our differences.

*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”* — Psalm 133:1

It must be **peaceful and safe**,
a refuge in chaos, a shelter in every storm.
It must be **genuine and creative**, giving voice to new songs and sacred imaginations.

*“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.”* — 1 Peter 5:7

It must be **sustainable**, not just in its care for the earth,
but in the way it nourishes people for the long journey of faith.

*“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”* — Psalm 24:1

It must be **fun and refreshing**,
a place where we can move and rest, work and play, explore and belong.

Above all, it must be a place where **God is seen**,
where **Jesus is known**,
where the **Spirit is welcome**,
and where we are continually being made new.

**We Believe the Church Is…**

We believe the Church is a sacred space
where responsibility is learned —
not forced, but formed through trust and care.

*“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much.”* — Luke 16:10

We believe the Church teaches us to take life seriously —
but not to take ourselves too seriously.
There is grace for our mistakes and growth through our learning.

We believe that play is holy.
**Sports, friendship, movement, and laughter**
are part of how we honor the bodies God gave us,
and how we build strength for our mental and spiritual well-being.

*“Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things.”* — 1 Timothy 4:8

We believe the Church should **protect** and **accept us**.
We should not have to earn our safety or hide our true selves.

*“Do not fear, for I am with you.”* — Isaiah 41:10
*“You are a chosen people... God’s own people.”* — 1 Peter 2:9

We believe the Church is a place of healing —
where we do not have to be perfect to be welcome,
where we are held in love when we hurt,
and where God’s mercy meets us again and again.

*“While we were still enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son.”* — Romans 5:10

We believe the Church is a place of **worship**,
where all voices are welcome,
and every style of praise is embraced —
from silence to shouting, from organ to guitar, from dance to stillness.

*“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.”* — Psalm 150:6

We believe the Church should speak in ways that **resonate** —

not just in the words it says, but in how it connects.

It should make faith understandable and alive.
It should meet us in our world, not ask us to leave it behind.

We believe the Church should be **full of life** —
with mentoring, learning, serving, joy, and relationships that last.
A place that helps us know God more
and become more of who we are called to be.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”*

**We Believe the Spirit Is Still Speaking**

We are the youth.
We are the Church.
We are the dreamers, the doers, the dancers, the doubters.
We are followers of Christ and bearers of God’s image.

We believe the Spirit has not finished forming the Church.
The Spirit is still speaking,
still calling,
still building —
and we are ready to be part of what comes next.