



STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1. The Church recognizes as its statement of faith, *The Baptist Faith and Message: A statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, S.B.C., June 14, 2000*. Any updates officially adopted by the S.B.C. will replace the June 2000 version unless specifically stated otherwise here. A copy of the *Baptist Faith and Message* is available in the Church office.

Section 2. Satan. We believe in the reality and personality of Satan (Job 1:7; Matthew 4:1-11) and that he was defeated by Christ through His death, burial and resurrection at Calvary. (Ephesians 1:19-23; Col. 2:15)

Section 3. Faith. We believe that faith without works is dead. We do not believe, as a matter of the fundamental beliefs and doctrines of this Church, that any matter can be believed without there being an accompanying and corresponding action. Our faith is an active faith that requires the doing of acts in the world. Our faith is not a passive or complacent system of intellectual belief or assent to doctrine but is an active force in our lives that requires and results in actions being taken. A living, active faith will be manifested not only in belief and mental assent but in actions expressing and based upon that belief. If a belief is truly held it will be acted upon. The act is as much a fundamental aspect of our faith as the belief upon which the act is based. (James 2:14-26; Eph 2:8-10; Matt 5:16; 7:21; & 24-27; 16:27; II Cor. 5:10; Rev 2:23; 22:12)

Section 4. Laying on of Hands. We believe in the doctrine of the laying on of hands for:

- 1) The confirming of believers in the faith. (Acts 14:22)
- 2) The recognition, ordination, and setting apart of ministry.
- 3) The ministry of healing the sick.
- 4) The blessing and dedication (setting apart) of children. (Mark 10:16)

Section 5. Benevolence to the Needy. We believe that the Scriptures are clear concerning helping those in need. We are commanded to do good to all people as we have opportunity, with a special emphasis upon caring for those who profess to be fellow Christians, especially those of our own fellowship of believers. We are commanded to be generous and willing to share, laying up treasures for ourselves in the coming age by our kindness and generosity in this life. This is true for the Church as an organization as well as for the individual members of the Church. Therefore, in accordance with the biblical commands, as a fundamental aspect of the practice of our faith, we will share of our material goods with those in need and will minister to them to the best of our abilities, whatever the need. (Prov. 25:21; Isa. 58:10; Gal. 6:10; I Tim 6:18-19; Heb. 13:16)

Section 6. Discipline. We believe in Church discipline administered within the Church, administered in a spirit of meekness and confidentiality. The purpose of such discipline is the restoration of the one subject to the discipline and/or the purification of the Church. (Matt. 18:15-20; Gal. 6:1; Romans 16:17; I Cor. 5; II Cor. 2:6-8)

Section 7. Lawsuits. We believe as members of the same body of Christ, baptized by one Spirit into one body, that we must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and as such that we are discouraged from bringing a lawsuit in a civil court against another person who professes to be a Christian. We believe that all such disputes should be resolved within the Body of Christ (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:3-6). In the event of personal injury occurring on Church property, during Church activities, or in Church vehicles and resulting in medical bills to the member or his dependents, it may be necessary and acceptable for the member to bring suit to require an insurance company to cover those medical expenses.