

## **MIDDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

As a Church we attempt to adhere to Biblical standards and principles. The following is not an exhaustive statement, but includes the basic AGREED PRINCIPLES upon which the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches was formed.

### **THE SCRIPTURES.**

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments have their authority from God alone, and are given to us by divine inspiration. They are the only perfect, supreme, infallible and sufficient standard of faith and practice.

*2 Tim 3:15-17; Psa 1:1-3; Matt 4:4; John 20:31; Heb 4:12; Psa 119:9, 45-47.*

### **GOD.**

There is one true and living God; He is an infinite Spirit; self-existent, omnipresent, omnipotent, good, wise, just and merciful. He is the creator, preserver and sovereign of the universe; He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all honour, confidence and love. In the Godhead there are three persons in one - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are equal in every divine perfection, and who execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

*Psa 103:19; Isa 6:3; Matt 3:16-17; 28:19; Mark 12:29; 2 Cor 13:14; Heb 1:3; James 1:17*

### **JESUS CHRIST.**

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the person of the Trinity who, by virtue of His sacrificial work, is the world's Redeemer and the Saviour of all who believe. He is at present the intercessor of all His people at the right hand of the Father, and is to be the Judge of all.

*Luke 1:27,35; John 1:1,14; 3:16; 10:30; Acts 1:9,11; 10:42; 1 Cor 15:17, 20-23; 1 Tim 2:5; 2 Tim 4:1; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:3; Rev 11:15; 22:12-13*

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, by whom all saving, comforting and sanctifying power is exerted upon human hearts.

*John 3:7-8; 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:7-8,14; Acts 1:8; Rom 15:16*

### **STATE AND FALL OF MAN**

Man was created sinless. By his own disobedience he fell into sin. Through his fall into sin, an evil nature was transmitted to the whole race, revealing itself in actual transgression, and bringing all under the reign of condemnation and death.

*Gen 1:27; Rom 3:11-23; 5:12; 2 Cor 4:3; Gal 3:22; Eph 2:1-3, 12*

### **ATONEMENT**

The perfect life, vicarious death and resurrection of Jesus Christ have removed the obstacles in the way of the Holy Spirit's regenerating power and of the Father's forgiving grace being extended to the sinner, and constitute for every believing soul an all-prevailing plea and sufficient ground for righteousness before God.

*Acts 3:19; 4:12; 1 Cor 15:3; 1 Tim 2:6; Heb 9:26; 1 John 2:2*

### **REGENERATION**

In regeneration a new life principle is begotten in the soul of man by the Holy Spirit through the word of truth, producing an disposition to joy ful obedience to Christ and to holy conduct in life.

*Acts 26:18; Rom 5:1; 6:13, 18-19,22; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:1; Titus 3:5*

## REPENTANCE

In repentance the sinner, having seen his sin, being moved by the energy of the Holy Spirit, is led to grieve for and hate it as an offence against God, and apprehending the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, he lovingly returns to God to walk in the way of His commandments.

*John 16:7-11; Acts 3:19; 20:21; 26:20; 2 Cor 7:19; 1 John 1:9*

## FAITH

Faith is a conviction of the intellect that God will perform all that He has promised and an implicit trust of the heart in Christ as a personal Saviour. It includes a hearty concurrence of the will and the affections with the whole plan of salvation as revealed in the gospel, and is a condition of justification and of cleansing from the pollution of sin and of all subsequent gospel blessings.

*John 20:31; Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 2:8*

## JUSTIFICATION

Justification is an act of God wherein He accepts as righteous the sinner, to whom is imputed the perfect righteousness of Christ, on the condition of faith alone.

*Rom 3:24-26,28; 5:1; Gal 2:16; Titus 3:7*

## SANCTIFICATION

The Scriptures teach that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, Christians are made partakers of His holiness; that it has its beginning in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, in the continual use of the appointed means - the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

*Rom 6:13-14, 19; 12:1-2; 2 Cor 7:1; 1 Thess 4:3-7; 5:23-24; Titus 2:11-12; 3:5; Heb 12:14*

## DEATH, RESURRECTION and GENERAL JUDGEMENT

At death our bodies return to dust, our souls to God who gave them. The righteous being then perfected in happiness are received to dwell with God, awaiting the full redemption of their bodies. The wicked are cast into Hades reserved unto the judgement of the great day. There will be a general resurrection of the bodies of the just and of the unjust; the righteous in the likeness of Christ, but the wicked to shame and everlasting contempt. There will be a judgement of the living and the dead, of the just and unjust, on principles of righteousness, by our Lord Jesus Christ, at His second coming. The wicked will be condemned to eternal punishment, and the righteous received into the fullness of eternal life and joy.

*Matt 25:31-46; John 3:16-18; 14:2-3; 1 Cor 15:12-57; 2 Thess 1:8-10; Rev 20:11-15; 22:1-5*

## **MIDDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour; and, on profession of our faith, having been baptized into the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the covenant with one another, as one Body of Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and godly living; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of its poor, its works of love and faith and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We engage to maintain family and private devotions; to educate our children in the saving grace of Jesus Christ; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all idle talk, backbiting, to be temperate in all things, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour.

We engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to seek it without delay.

And we engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other Church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. That we will not neglect the services of the Church, and will habitually observe secret prayer and the reading of the Scriptures, earnestly seeking therein the help of the Holy Spirit;