

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommends the church commend the Statement of Faith to the further work of the committee in developing the Constitution and Bylaws.

STATEMENT OF FAITH FOR FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

THE BIBLE

We affirm that the Bible is our sole authority, verbally inspired by God, infallible, inerrant, totally sufficient and trustworthy; therefore it is our final authority in doctrine [belief] and practice [equipping].

THE TRINITY

We affirm there is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth, and love. Eternally in three Persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Co-existent, co- equal, and co-eternal.

GOD THE FATHER

We affirm that God the Father is the creator and sustainer of the heavens and the earth, and all therein. By His Word and for His glory, He created the world out of nothing and by the same Word daily sustains all His creatures. He alone is the only Sovereign and is faithful to all His promises, and by His grace gave His Son, Jesus Christ for the redemption of mankind to live in right fellowship with Him.

GOD THE SON

We affirm that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God and is the eternal Word made flesh, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He is fully God and fully man. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world, willingly shed His own blood and died on Calvary's cross in our place. He rose bodily from the grave, conquering death and the power of darkness. After 40 days, and appearing to over 500 witnesses, He ascended to heaven at the right hand of the Father. He is our mediator and intercedes before the Father on our behalf and He will return in a time appointed by the Father.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired the Scriptures. He is our Helper and Guide in teaching us all of His Truth found in Scripture. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He produces Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service. His presence seals the believer unto final redemption and guarantees that they will become like Christ.

MANKIND

Mankind was created by God in His own image, male and female, for the glory of God and fellowship with Him. When tempted by Satan man by his free choice rebelled against God and brought sin and death into the human race. Deprived of God's continuing presence mankind is under the power of sin and Satan causing mankind to become an enemy of God now under His condemnation, separated from Him. Only God's grace can restore mankind to the purpose for which he was created.

SALVATION

The only hope for mankind is Jesus Christ, alone. This salvation is offered freely to all who by faith accept Him as Savior and Lord. Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. The sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

THE CHURCH

We affirm that the church has been instituted by God through His Holy Spirit and His Word as He reconciles sinful men and unites them in His Spirit. Made up of baptized believers united in Jesus Christ and in faithful covenant with one another, the church is the body of Christ. The church exists to glorify God in obedience to His Word by worship, by sharing the gospel, by meeting needs, by fellowship, and by unity under the true doctrine of God's Word.

ORDINANCES

Baptism is commanded by Scripture for those who have professed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is accomplished by full immersion in water. It is an act of obedience symbolic of the believer's faith in and identity with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life received by the grace of God.

The Lord's Supper, likewise commanded by Scripture, is celebrated by baptized believers in memory of Christ's bodily sacrifice and shed blood on the cross. The bread and wine are symbolic of Christ's body and blood and remind the church not only of His death but also the promise of His second coming.

LAST THINGS

We affirm that God will in His own time and in His own way bring the world to an appropriate end. We believe Christ will come personally, visibly, and gloriously to the earth where the dead will be raised and Christ will judge all men by His perfect righteousness. The righteous in Christ, in resurrected and glorified bodies, will live and reign with the Lord forever. If anyone's name is not found written in the Book of Life, he will be thrown into the lake of fire.