

ARTICLES OF FAITH
MT. PLEASANT MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
Adopted
December 30, 2015

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe and teach the Holy Bible is a supernatural book, that it is the very Word of God, that it is in the sixty-six books the full, final and complete revelation of God's will to man. We believe the author of the Bible is God the Holy Spirit, and by inspiration we mean the plenary, verbal inspiration, that Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit as revealed in Second Peter chapter one. We believe that the only correct English translation is the King James Version. We reject the modern paraphrased versions, the modern common version and others which delete the pure meaning of redemption and do injustice to the Deity of Christ. We believe and teach that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

The Authorized King James Bible shall be the standard for English language preaching, teaching or other activities where the Bible is used including weddings and funerals. There will be no other version of the Bible used at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church.

II Timothy 3:16-17 Hebrews 4:12 II Peter 1:19-21 Psalms 119:89 Romans 15:4

GOD THE FATHER

We believe and teach that there is one, and only one, true and living God. He is absolute in nature, perfect in attributes, and holy in character. He is the Creator of all things, animate and inanimate. He is immutable, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, eternal and sovereign.

Ephesians 4:6 I Timothy 1:17 Psalms 147:4 Exodus 20:2-3 Romans 11:33
Genesis 17:1 John 4:24 Psalms 90:2 Psalms 139:7-10

GOD THE SON

We believe and teach Jesus Christ is as much God as God the Father and God the Spirit. He was virgin born and incarnate in flesh. He lived a sinless life and is the only true Savior of mankind by His vicarious death on the cross. He resurrected bodily from the tomb, ascended into Heaven and is now the believers' High Priest, ever interceding for them.

Genesis 3:15 Isaiah 9:6; 53:5 John 1:1-5, 14 II Corinthians 5:21
Colossians 1:13-17 Galatians 3:13 Hebrews 1:2 Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:12-13

The Resurrection

We believe and teach that Jesus Christ arose bodily from the grave. We also believe and teach that this resurrection assures all believers the same bodily resurrection when the Lord returns for the Saints at the time of the Rapture. There will also be a resurrection of the unsaved to stand in judgment before the Lord, known in the Scriptures as the Great White Throne Judgment.

Matthew 28:6-7 I Corinthians 15:42-52 I Thessalonians 4:13-18 John 20:27 Hebrews 9:27-28

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same essence and that He was active in the creation.

We believe that the Holy Spirit's relation to the unbelieving world is that He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and witnessing; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He indwells, seals, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. Every true believer receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation.

Genesis 1:1-3 Matthew 28:19 Mark 1:8 Luke 1:35; 24:49 John 1:33; 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-11 Acts 11:16
Romans 8:14, 16, 26-27; I Corinthians 12:13 Ephesians 1:13-14 Hebrews 9:14

We believe that the Holy Spirit equips believers for service by bestowing upon them spiritual gifts. The charismatic gifts (such as tongues, healing, casting out of demons, etc.) as found in I Corinthians 12:8-10 and Mark 16:17-18 were temporary signs given to the apostles and

prophets for the writing of the New Testament, until the close of the canon, and are not operational today. The Holy Spirit's charismatic gifts have ceased, but we do believe that God in His goodness does still heal and deliver from demons.

Romans 12:1-8 I Corinthians 12-14 Ephesians 2:20; 3:3-5; 4:4-16 II Corinthians 12:11-12 Hebrews 2:4

SATAN/DEVIL

We believe and teach that the Devil is an actual being and not an imaginary influence; that he once enjoyed high heavenly honors and glorious heavenly privileges; that he through pride, ambition and self-will betrayed God and as a result brought down upon his head the judgment of God. He operates today as the god of this world and the Prince of the Power of the air; that he is the arch deceiver, and father of all lies; that he is the greatest enemy, the biggest tempter and the greatest opposition of saints and sinners alike. His final abode shall be the lake of fire which is the eternal place of punishment prepared for the Devil and his angels.

Isaiah 14:12-15 Ezekiel 28:14-17 John 8:43-44 I Peter 5:8 I John 3:8 Jude 6 Revelation 20:10

CREATION

We believe and teach the Genesis record of creation is literal, and not allegorical or figurative; that God personally created the Heaven and the Earth in a direct act, in 6 twenty-four hour days and that He brought forth all original matter out of nothing. We believe that man was created directly in Gods own image and not by the hypothesis of any kind of evolution. God's established law says that all species shall bring forth "after their kind."

Genesis 1:1 Genesis 1:26-27 John 1:1-3 Acts 17:23-26 Romans 1:20 Hebrews 11:3

FALL OF MAN

We believe and teach that man was created in innocence and holiness and by voluntary transgression of the Lord's command, fell from the state in which he was created and as a consequence became a sinner alienated from God and brought upon himself and all mankind just condemnation. Man is now, by virtue of his fallen nature, void of holiness, positively inclined to evil and actually condemned to eternal ruin without excuse.

Genesis 3:6-24 Romans 5:19 Romans 5:12 Romans 1:18, 28 Ephesians 2:1-3

SALVATION

We believe and teach that the gift of salvation is made free to all by the Gospel. We believe it is the duty of all to accept freely, by faith, that salvation and those who voluntarily reject salvation will face eternal separation from God in a literal place of punishment called the Lake of Fire in the scriptures. When a sinner repents and receives Jesus Christ as His personal Savior he receives eternal life. The eternal purpose of God in salvation is first of all to preserve the believer forever in Christ; the believer is saved eternally. It is also the eternal purpose of God that the believer will conform to the image of His Son. This salvation wrought by grace then assures us that we are preserved in Christ by the power of God and no man can pluck the saved from the Father's hand. Salvation is everlasting.

John 1:12 John 3:15-16 John 5:24 John 10:27-30 Romans 10:1-13 I Peter 1:5

REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe and teach that repentance and faith are solemn and inseparable prerequisites for salvation; that they are inseparable graces wrought in the heart by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, and as the sinner is convicted of his guilt and helplessness he turns in repentance to the Lord Jesus Christ, surrendering himself wholeheartedly, and receiving Him as personal Savior and Lord, he is immediately born again.

Matthew 3:1-2 Mark 1:15 Acts 3:19 II Corinthians 7:9-10 Acts 2:37-38 Acts 20:21

THE CHURCH

We believe and teach that the local, visible assembly of called out believers into a public place of worship and service is the only one found in the New Testament. We do not believe in an invisible or universal church. The local New Testament Baptist church is the only one authorized to carry out the great commission. The first New Testament Baptist church was founded by Jesus Christ during His own personal ministry, and entrance into the local church is by scriptural baptism. We believe and teach that the Local New Testament Baptist church is an independent congregation and is not governed or controlled by an ecclesiastical hierarchy and has the absolute right of self-government.

Membership In Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church – An individual maybe considered for membership after meeting one of the three criteria listed below and receiving a majority vote of the church from members present at the time of consideration.

- Profession of Faith** – A person publicly confessing personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and upon baptism by Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church may be admitted into the fellowship of the church.
- By Letter** – A person publicly confessing personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who is from another scriptural Baptist Church of like faith and order may be received into membership upon receipt of letter of transfer from that respective Baptist church may be admitted into the fellowship of the church.
- By Statement** – A person from another scriptural Baptist Church who presents himself/herself on the statement that he/she has been scripturally baptized as a public profession of their repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, may be admitted into the fellowship of the church.

Termination Of Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

1. Death
2. Transfer by letter to another church of like faith and order
3. By personal request of the particular member
4. Exclusion by action of this church

THE CHURCH ORDINANCES

We believe and teach that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only two local church ordinances set forth in the local church by Jesus Christ. Scriptural Baptism began with John the Baptist. John's baptism was not Old Testament dispensation or an intermediate but New Testament baptism. Our Lord Jesus Christ accepted this baptism himself and accepted those that John baptized into the church that He organized during His own personal ministry.

Baptism - We believe that Baptism is the burial of a believer in water by the authority and instruction of the local Baptist Church; that it symbolizes the death and the burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that it also typifies the believer's death to sin, the burial of his old nature, and his resurrection unto a new life; and that it is administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord's Supper – We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial table of unleavened bread and fermented wine administered by the authority and instruction of the local Baptist Church and observed by its members; that it symbolizes the broken body and the shed blood of the Son of God; that its observance points backward to the crucified Lord on Calvary and forward to the returning Lord in glory. We believe that these ordinances are not sacraments, but are sacred symbols, pointing to the world's only Savior.

Matthew 26:26-29; 28:19 Romans 6:3-5 Matthew 16:19 Acts 10:47 I Corinthians 11:23-26

CHURCH GIVING

We believe and teach that every Christian, is a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made.

Genesis 14:20 Proverbs 3:9-10 Acts 4:34-37 I Corinthians 16:2 II Corinthians 9:6-7
Galatians 6:6 Ephesians 4:28 I Timothy 5:17-18 I John 3:17

HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, polygamy, and pornography, pedophilia are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. Under no circumstances will there be any other type of marriage performed by Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church.

Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 28:8-9 Leviticus 18:1-30 Romans 1:26-29 I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9 I Thessalonians 4:1-8
Hebrews 13:4.

We believe that in order to preserve the purpose and integrity of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church as a local New Testament Church, and to provide a biblical example to her members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as officers, teachers, volunteers, agree to and abide by this.

Matthew 5:16 Philippians 2:14-16 I Thessalonians 5:22

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior directed toward any individual are to be renounced and are not in accord with Scripture.

Acts 3:19-21 Romans 10:9-10 I Corinthians 6:9-11 Mark 12:28-31 Luke 6:31

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

We believe and teach that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.

Galatians 3:28 Colossians 3:18 I Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline.

Genesis 1:26-28 Exodus 20:12 Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Psalms 127:3-5 Proverbs 19:18
Proverbs 22:15 Proverbs 23:13-14 Mark 10:6-12 I Corinthians 7:1-16 Ephesians 5:21-33
Ephesians 6:1-4 Colossians 3:18-21 Hebrews 13:4 I Peter 3:1-7

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

We believe and teach that God disapproves of divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon.

Malachi 2:14-17 Matthew 19:3-12 Romans 7:1-3 I Timothy 3:2, 12 Titus 1:6

SANCTITY OF LIFE

We believe that human life begins at conception and ends at death. We believe that assisting in the ending of life under any circumstances is sin (euthanasia). We further believe that an unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

Job 3:16 Psalms 51:5 Psalms 139:14-16 Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; 20:15-18 Luke 1:44

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.