

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

*As an ordained member of the clergy in the American Baptist Church USA, I hereby affirm my profession of faith:*

**WE BELIEVE** and trust in the triune God—eternally existing as The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29). Furthermore, we believe and place our trust in the living God, the creator of the heavens, the earth, and all that exists within (Genesis 1:1, 1 Corinthians 8:6).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust in the embodiment of God's grace through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He was born to the virgin Mary, fully divine and fully human, and he sacrificially died on the cross for the sins of humanity. Rising from the dead, he ascended to heaven, now seated at the right hand of God. He will return in splendid glory to judge all, both living and deceased, and stands as the exclusive and ample mediator bridging the gap between God and humankind (John 1:16-17, Isaiah 7:14, Colossians 2:13-15, Romans 4:25, Luke 24:51, Colossians 3:1, Acts 10:38-42, 1 Timothy 2:5).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust in the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's ceaseless engagement in the world unveils the redemptive potency of God in Christ. Within believers, the Spirit resides, reshaping the hearts of the fallen through regeneration and further refining the hearts of the saved in their journey of transformation and sanctification. Additionally, the Spirit acts as a guiding force, propelling the world towards the fulfillment of God's divine plan (John 14:16-18, John 16:7-14, Romans 8:9-11, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust humanity was brought into existence by God, crafted to possess eternal essence and bearing the likeness of the Divine. Nevertheless, due to the Fall of humanity, sin and mortality infiltrated both God's creation and human nature (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 3:1-7, Romans 3:9-10, Romans 5:12-14).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust our rebirth as new beings in Christ is solely due to the unmerited favor of God, achieved through the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Lord. By this grace, we are transformed into new creations, becoming God's children. Through the sealing of the Holy Spirit, God proclaims us righteous and designates us as saints (John 1:12-13, John 3:3, 5-7, Romans 10:4-10, Ephesians 1:13-14).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust in Jesus Christ, who embodies the very Word of God in human form. Through Him, the entirety of existence was brought into being, and it is by His life, sacrificial death on the cross, and subsequent resurrection that God shapes a new order of creation. We have unwavering faith and confidence that personal justification, the absolution of sin, and salvation are bestowed upon us through God's grace, received by our unwavering faith in Christ Jesus alone (John 1:1-14, Colossians 1:15-17, Ephesians 2:8-10, Galatians 2:20-21).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust eternal salvation is a gift bestowed freely by God, entirely independent of human deeds. That salvation is granted to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ as their individual Lord and Savior. Such faith empowers all redeemed sinners to constitute a priesthood of believers and to rejoice in the confidence of their righteous standing before God, along with their eternal security in Christ. This assurance is founded on the testimony of the Bible and the internal affirmation of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:23, John 6:37-38, John 10:27-29, 1 John 5:6-12, 1 Peter 2:9-10).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust in the Bible—the compilation of the canonical written Scriptures spanning the Old and New Testaments. These Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit, who speaks through its authors, unveiling God's revelation in both judgment and mercy through words and actions. This divine revelation traces back to the Word present in creation, extending through the history of Israel, and culminating in its fullest expression in the person, teachings, and deeds of Jesus Christ. The Bible stands as the authoritative source and standard for the proclamation of faith and the guidance of life (Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 1:1-2, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 17:17, Psalm 119:160).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust that individuals who possess faith are led by the Spirit of God on a path of continuous love, growth, and purification. This transformative process results in the visible manifestation of virtues, nurtured through a collective pursuit of salvation as devoted followers of Christ and as living examples of the teachings found in scripture (Romans 8-14, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 2:12-13, Galatians 5:22-26).

**WE BELIEVE** and trust that all believers, as new creations in Christ and as God's children, are summoned and empowered by the Holy Spirit to engage with others in a spirit of love. As bearers of the Gospel, they stand as authentic witnesses to the reality of God in their lives, displaying the spiritual gifts bestowed by God to serve the Kingdom's purposes and mission within this world. Their lives also testify to the truth of the Gospel (Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Romans 1:16-17, 1 Corinthians 12:1-13, Romans 12:1-21, 1 Corinthians 13:13).