

Doctrinal Statement

First Baptist Church of New Sweden

- 1. The Word of God** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- 2. The Trinity** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.
- 3. God the Father** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
- 4. Jesus Christ** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.
- 5. The Holy Spirit** We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.
- 6. Man (Humankind)** We believe that humans are uniquely created in the image of God as male and female for the purpose of glorifying God and enjoying relationship with Him. The two (and only two) genders or sexes are given by God and are unchanging aspects of humanity. Man was created without sin but fell when he rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden. Man is now subject to both spiritual and physical death, his only hope for rescue from this penalty of death is the salvation wrought by God in Jesus Christ.
- 6. Regeneration** We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that God graciously works by the Holy Spirit to regenerate sinners to respond by faith and repentance to the offer of salvation in Jesus Christ as found in the Bible.
- 7. The Church** We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.
- 8. Christian Conduct** We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of

their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. Christian Marriage We believe that Christian marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God for the wellbeing of humankind and the propagation of the human race. It is the spiritual and physical union of only one man to only one woman for life according to Scripture.

10. The Ordinances We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. Religious Liberty We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

12. Church Cooperation We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

13. The Last Things We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.