



GEARY BAPTIST CHURCH INC.

STATEMENT OF FAITH
(Copied from GBC Constitution and Bylaws)

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union. (Matthew 5:17-18; John 16:12-15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

GOD

We believe in one God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1-2; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ (that Jesus is God); in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate (before he became a man in the flesh) glory, in His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension, mediatorial ministry and personal return. (Matthew 1:18-23; John 1:1-18; Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit (that the Holy Spirit is God) Who convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; Who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ. (John 7:37-39; 14:16-17; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13)

SATAN

We believe that Satan (the devil) exists as an evil personality, the originator of sin, the archenemy of God and man. (Genesis 3:1-15; Job 1:6-12; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Peter 5:8-9)

HUMANITY

We believe that man was divinely created by God in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in receiving and being enslaved in the sin nature, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death. (Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-24; Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-3)

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered death. His death for the redeemed can be described in three words; vicarious (Taking on the suffering that we deserved and in turn granting us a blessing of redemption), expiatory (Jesus, the pure Son of God, had the power to take our place of suffering), and propitiatory (Jesus was able to completely cover the sins of the believer and reconcile them to God). Furthermore justification (rendering believers sinless before God) is by faith alone in the all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has effectually called shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord. (John 6:35-40; Romans 3:19-26; 8:28-30; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-23)

FUTURE THINGS

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed in heaven with God and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the wicked in hell. (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20-22)

THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that a church is a company of immersed (baptized) believers, called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus, voluntarily associated for the ministry of God's Word (the Bible), the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe it is a sovereign, independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Christ, the Great Head of the church. We believe that its officers are pastors and elders. (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

ORDINANCES

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the church established by Jesus Christ and to be regularly observed:

- *Baptism*, which is the immersion of the believer in water, whereby he obeys Christ's command and sets forth his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-4)

- *The Lord's Supper*, which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and wine (grape juice), which symbolizes the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes. (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

THE CHURCH AND STATE

We believe in the separation of church and state. (Matthew 22:21)

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe in religious liberty; that all people have equal right to practice and propagate their beliefs in society. Within the Geary Baptist Church the Bible will be the sole authority. (Romans 14:11-12)

THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day and that, in a special sense, it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise. (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society; that civil leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth. (Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; 1Tim 2:1-2)

(Formatted for GBC website Sept. 7, 2023)