

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

161 South Whittlesey Avenue
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492

(A) *The Holy Scriptures*

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are infallible and God-breathed; and therefore the final authority for faith and life. The 66 books of the Bible are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. We believe that the words of divine inspiration have been preserved in the King James Version which shall be the official and only translation used by the church. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 12:6-7)

(B) *The Godhead*

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; each co-eternal in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26)

(C) *The Person and Work of Christ*

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, in order that He might reveal God, and redeem sinful man. (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)

(D) *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18, 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses

to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22, 13:8, 14:21-22; Heb. 2:4; James 5:13-16)

(E) *The Total Depravity of Man*

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23, 5:12, 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-19)

(F) *Salvation*

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

(G) *The Eternal Security of the Believer*

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:4-5)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

(H) *The Church*

1. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27)
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-11)
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 5:4-7,13; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinance of obedience for the church. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-44, 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

(I) *Separation*

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasure, practices, and associations is commanded of God. (Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11)

(J) *The Second Advent of Christ*

We believe in the personal, imminent return of Christ, Who will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return, with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Psalm 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:16)

(K) *The Eternal State*

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6,12-13)
2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are

reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23, 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:16-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15)

(L) *The Personality of Satan*

We believe that Satan is a created being, the author of sin, and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

(M) *Creation*

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, twenty-four hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural. (Gen. 1-2; Exodus 20:11)

(N) *Civil Government*

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions; the home, the church, and the government. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the government are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14)

(O) *Human Sexuality*

We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that marriage is a permanent relationship between a man and a woman only. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of the marriage between that one man and one woman. We believe that the Bible teaches that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgenderism, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of marital intimacy. Believing that, we will limit all marriages performed by any member of the pastoral staff of Heritage Baptist Church, regardless of where the ceremony is conducted, to the marriage between one man and one woman. In addition, the only weddings that may be performed on the property of Heritage Baptist Church will be those between one man and one woman, no matter who is officiating the ceremony. (Genesis 2:24, 19:5, 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

We further state our firm belief that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct but complimentary genders reflect the image and nature of God and the rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person. In all aspects of this ministry we will acknowledge only male and female in the biological sense. Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:14-16)

(P) *Divorce and Remarriage*

We believe that God intends marriage to last until one of the partners dies. We believe that God did permit divorce on the grounds of fornication, but that divorce is never His perfect will. Although divorced persons and remarried persons may be greatly used of God in the service of Christ and may hold positions of service in the Church, they may not be considered for the position of Pastor or Deacon as instructed in the Scriptures. (Malachi 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6)

(Q) *Abortion*

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the 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; Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:4)

(R) *Missions*

We believe that God has given the Church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

(S) *Lawsuits between Believers*

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians of the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes involving members. We do believe however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

(T) *Giving*

We believe that every Christian, as 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. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)