

# **REHOBOTH BAPTIST MISSIONARY AGREEMENT STATEMENT**

We believe that to carry on the religious mission of the church, and to preserve the function and integrity of what it means to be part of the Body of Christ, it is imperative that all persons who associate with the church as missionaries should abide by and agree to the following statements and conduct themselves in accordance with them.

## **A. Rehoboth Baptist Church Statement of Faith**

We believe in the absolute authority and accuracy of the 66 books of the Bible, its full verbal inspiration in the original manuscripts and its all sufficiency as the Christian's rule of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

We believe there is but one God, Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, who is perfect in holiness, and in love, infinite in wisdom and measureless in power, and who exists as three persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Nehemiah 9:6; 1 Chronicles 29:11,12; Exodus 15:11; 1 John 4:8b; Matthew 28:19).

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, that He is true God and true man and is the only mediator between God and man (Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,12-14, 12:45, 14:9; 1 Tim. 2:5).

We believe that man was created in the image of God by direct creation and that he sinned and thereby incurred both physical and spiritual death. Thus, we believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners and, apart from Christ, shall be forever separated from God (Genesis 1:26; 2:17; Exodus 18:20a; Romans 3:23, 6:23).

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that all who believe on Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Revelation 1:5).

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with the Father and the Son, and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment; that He bears witness to the truth; that He is the agent of the new birth; and that at conversion He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ; and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believer, indwelling every true child of God (John 16:8-11, 3:3-7; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17; Romans 8:14-27).

We believe that salvation is by the grace of God through faith, not of works, and that all who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God. We believe in the eternal security of the believer (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12, 3:3-7; John 10:27-29; Philippians 1:6).

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present ministry there for us as High Priest and Advocate. We believe in the personal, visible, imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church and in His coming in Glory with believers to set up His kingdom upon the earth (1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-15).

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust, the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (1 Corinthians 15:20-24; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Matthew 25:31-46).

We believe that the local church is the local expression of the body of Christ and is a voluntary association of baptized believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, and independent of any external ecclesiastical control whatsoever. We believe that God's Word commands every believer to be baptized by immersion in water. Though baptism has no saving merit, it does show forth in solemn and beautiful symbolism the believer's faith in and union with the crucified, buried and risen Savior (Acts 8:38, 10:48, 18:8; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 28:18-20).

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and the cup which are symbols of Christ's crucified body and shed blood; that the Lord's Supper is partaken of by saved individuals in memory of the suffering and death of their Lord and in anticipation of His soon coming again; that its observance is to be preceded by faithful self-examination (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor.11:23-30).

## **B. Church Participation Principles (Reflecting the RBC Covenant)**

Having been led by the Spirit of God, I have received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord (John 1:12). I have been born again through the Holy Spirit (John 3:6,7; 1:13) and have publicly confessed my faith by word and in baptism (Romans 10:8-10, 6:3-5). Unless providentially hindered from doing so, I am committed to the mutual accountability found through membership in a local church in which I can practice living in submission to Christ by:

- Walking lovingly (John 13:34,35) and humbly with my brethren (1 Peter 5:6; Romans 12:3), praying for them (James 5:16), and separating myself from

such practices that would be detrimental to the church, my Christian character, and to my brethren (Titus 2:12; 1 Corinthians 8:1-9, 9:23).

- Praying for the advancement of the church in spiritual knowledge and fruitfulness (John 15:8,16).
- Supporting its ministries of worship, training and teaching, faithfully observing its ordinances (Matthew 28:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:24-27), and affirm its teachings (1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3).
- Maintaining family worship, training and discipline in my own home and encouraging family prayer, Bible study and spiritual growth for any under my care (Ephesians 6:1-4; Proverbs 22:6).
- Endeavoring by my example (Matthew 5:16), effort and word (1 Peter 3:15) to point people to Christ, and help them to mature in the faith (Matthew 28:19,20; Ephesians 4:11-16; Col. 1:28).
- Follow the Bible as my rule of faith and practice in every area of life (2 Timothy 3:16,17; Romans 12:4-16; Ephesians 4:11-16).

### **C. RBC Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

Rehoboth Baptist Church believes that marriage is an institution ordained by God for the mutual benefit of a husband (male) and a wife (female), and for the procreation of children (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25;3:20). The marriage bond between a husband and a wife is to reflect the love and relationship that Christ, the divine bridegroom, has for His bride, the church (Ephesians 5:22-33). Believing these things to be the unchangeable word of God, this church will not recognize any marriage or union between people of the same gender. Neither will the church nor any of its pastors or members solemnize such marriages or unions or permit the facilities or grounds of the church to be used to perform the same. No person united to another person of the same gender by any civil or religious ceremony will be considered for membership in the church.