

CHURCH COVENANT OF THE WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

For The Advancement of the Church

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and Spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin;

As Christian Stewards

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

Alone and At Home

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

Before the World

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

Toward One Another

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in Prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in the feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

When We Move

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

DECLARATION OF FAITH OF THE WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. (Matthew 24:35; John 5:39; II Timothy 3:16; I Peter 1:21).

II. Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressively glorious in holiness, and worthy of all

possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Isaiah 45:21; John 1:1-14; John 14:26; Revelation 1:8).

III. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse. (Genesis 1:27, 31; Genesis 3:1-24; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23).

IV. Of the Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature by the miracle of the Virgin Birth, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead he is now enthroned in Heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection's, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. (Matthew 26:28; John 1:29; John 3:14-16; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26).

V. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us

XIII. Of a Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only Scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus. (Ephesians 2:19-21; Ephesians 4; 4-5; I Corinthians 1:2; I Corinthians 12:12-28).

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination. (Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 26:26-30; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:20-29).

XV. Of the Christian Sabbath

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath and is to be kept holy by abstaining from all secular labor or physical recreation that would habitually keep you from attending the Lord's house; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remained for the people of God. (John 20:19; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2)

XVI. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things

opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth. (Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:13-17; Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:1-2).

XVII. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of Our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death. (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; Revelation 20:11-15).

XVIII. Of the World to Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness. (John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; II Thessalonians 2:3-8; Revelation 22:12).

XIX. Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred from fertilization (conception) throughout the human life continuum. We believe that human beings are created in the image of God and, as such, are to be protected (Genesis 1:26 -27; Genesis 9:6; Psalm 82:3-4; Psalm 139:13-14).

XX. Human Sexuality

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13;

Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I
Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).
2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining
of one man and one woman by mutual covenant. (Genesis
2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23.).
