

## **BEAVER DAM BAPTIST CHURCH TROY, VIRGINIA**

### **STATEMENT OF BELIEFS**

The mission of Beaver Dam Baptist Church is **the sharing of God's love through worship, ministry, evangelism, education, and fellowship.**

We use the 1963 edition of "The Baptist Faith and Message" as a guide for church practice and daily living.

**We believe** the Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The Holy Bible (both Old and New Testaments) is given directly by God, written by holy men of God, who received the revelation from God and were inspired to write the Word of God. We believe the entire Bible is the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:18).

**We believe** in one God eternally existing in three persons (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) who is perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy and love (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6,8; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 1:1-3).

*The Father reigns with providential care over all life and history in the created universe. He hears and answers our prayers (1 Chronicles 29:11-13; Matthew 7:11). God the Father initiated salvation by sending His Son, and He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Savior (1 John 4:9,10; John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31).*

*The eternal Son of God (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1; Matthew 3:17), our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, became man without ceasing to be God (John 1:14; Hebrews 1:2,3), having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18-25) in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (John 14:9; Matthew 1:21). He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles, and teaching (John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23,24). He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 4:23-25). He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation (Philippians 2:5-11). He intercedes for all believers and dwells in them as their ever-present Lord (Romans 8:34; John 14:23).*

*The Holy Spirit of God convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11). The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Holy Scriptures. (2 Peter 1:21). The Holy Spirit indwells all believers giving them spiritual gifts for ministry and building up the body of Christ (1 Corinthians*

*12:13; Romans 8:9-11). He fills those who are yielded to Him (Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16, 22-23).*

**We believe** that man was created in the image and likeness of God, in righteousness and holiness (Genesis 1:26-28). When Adam sinned the whole human race sinned in Adam. Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21). Man became spiritually dead and alienated from God so that man is a sinner by both nature and practice (Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3; Mark 7:20-23). Man, of himself, is incapable of remedying his lost and depraved condition (Galatians 2:16).

**We believe** that salvation is the gift of God's grace given to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16, 36; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 16:3). Through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, the believer is acquitted of all guilt and brought into a new relationship of peace with God (Romans 15:1). Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God (2 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15; 1 Thessalonians 3:12).

**We believe** in the universal church. The church of Jesus Christ is a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head. All who have believed in the atoning work of the cross and received the forgiveness offered by Christ are members of His church, regardless of denominational affiliation (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5).

**We believe** the local church is a community of faith, believers in Jesus Christ, associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that in and through the local church, God will continue to advance His kingdom, perform wonders and miraculous signs, and fulfill the Great Commission as we live and minister in obedience to the Great Commandment (Jesus teaches us to go and make disciples and commands us to love the Lord with all our heart and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves). Our church will continue to seek relevant and creative ways to create an inviting climate of warmth and hospitality that welcomes all to come and hear about the love of Jesus.

Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28). The form of government is understood to be congregational (Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23).

**We believe** religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God (Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29). Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other (Matthew 22:21).

**We believe** in the ordinances of Baptism and Communion. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in the water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers, together, as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

**We believe** Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society (Matthew 5:13-16). In a Christlike spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions (Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; 1 John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4). We further affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability (Genesis 2:21-125; Ephesians 6:1-4). We believe the covenant of marriage is between one man and one woman.

**We believe** God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth (Ephesians 1:9-10; Revelation 21:1). The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly, in glory, according to His promise (Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; John 14:1-3). The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness (John 5:28-29). The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:10). The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord (Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

**We believe** that, in essentials, we should have unity (Ephesians 4:4-6). In non-essentials, we should have liberty (Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22). In all our beliefs, we should demonstrate charity (1 Corinthians 13:2).