



This church accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired record of God's revelatory words and actions in human history and as the authoritative basis for its doctrine and practice. The Affirmation of Faith adopted by the Baptist General Conference in 1951 and as written below in this constitution is regarded by the Rush City Baptist Church as an expression of the essential doctrines of grace as set forth in Scripture. This document shall be subject to revision by the congregation, as new insights into the Word of God shall indicate ways in which our faith and life may be brought into closer accord with the teachings of Scripture.

**The Word of God.** We believe the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

**The Trinity.** We believe there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these persons are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct, but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

**God the Father.** We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

**Jesus Christ.** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in his virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in his substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, and ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for his people, and personal visible return to earth.

**The Holy Spirit.** We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

**Regeneration.** We believe man was created by God in His own image; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life.

**The Church.** We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

**Christian Conduct.** We believe a Christian should live for the glory of God and for the well-being of others; that his/her conduct should be blameless before the world; that he/she should be a faithful steward of all material possessions; and that he/she should seek to realize for himself/herself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

**The Ordinances.** We believe the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper, which is communion. We believe Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of his death. We believe these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Religious Liberty.** We believe every Christian has direct relations with God as a believer-priest, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

**Church Cooperation.** We believe local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

**The Last Things.** We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of his kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal bliss of the righteousness and the endless suffering of the wicked.