

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Northbridge affirms a core confession of convictions in common with the creeds of the early church, the confessions of the Reformation and all conservative Evangelical Christians.

**The Word of God.** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, truth without error, clear and powerful in its message, sufficient for all of our needs, and the final authority for faith and life.

**The Trinity.** We believe in the triune God --- Father, Son and Holy Spirit --- who is holy, just, loving, good, wise and almighty; who has created all things by his word out of nothing, who sustains, provides for and rules all things, who is our only Redeemer and who will judge all people.

**Creation, Mankind, & Marriage.** We believe that God directly created Adam and Eve as the historical parents of the human race, distinct from the rest of creation, in His image and likeness for fellowship with Himself and to carry out the creation mandates. Their union as man and woman models God's design for marriage and perpetually stands as God's loving and righteous will for all sexual intimacy. Out of this marriage union of man and woman God gives children as a blessing from the Lord. Thus all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception.

**The Fall.** We believe that our first parents forfeited their original righteousness when they succumbed to Satan's temptation and rebelled against God's revealed will. As a result, every human is born in sin, leaving us totally depraved alienated from God and destined to spiritual and physical death. As such our sinful ways have corrupted God's creation, resulting in discord to society and nature.

**Jesus Christ.** We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who added full humanity to his perfect deity, obeyed God perfectly, died for our sins on the cross, rose again to defeat Satan, returned to heaven to pour out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and to intercede for his people.

**Salvation.** We believe that the triune God has provided a great salvation for those who repent of their sins and trust Christ and his finished work; that he calls, regenerates, justifies, forgives, adopts, sanctifies, keeps and will glorify them.

**Holy Spirit.** We believe in the Holy Spirit who has been sent to complete and perfect in us all of the works that Jesus did for us. He convicts of sin, regenerates, sanctifies us, gifts us for ministry and assures us of our salvation.

**Final Judgment and Everlasting State.** We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection and final judgment of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

While many fellow Christians affirm the above truths, we affirm them from within a reformed and distinctly Baptist theological tradition as developed at the end of the twentieth century and as reflected in the following beliefs.

**Israel and the Church.** We believe that the church is a new people of God born at Pentecost, distinct from Israel, and manifest in local congregations of baptized believers who are committed to carry out the great commission.

**Ordinances.** We believe that Jesus gave two ordinances to the church, baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

**The Local Church.** We believe in the autonomy of the local congregation, the priesthood of all believers and in leadership by elected pastors/elders and deacons. We believe that local Churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a affiliation with churches of like faith and mind. Such an organization 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.

**Spiritual Gifts.** We believe in the continued expression of the spiritual gifts. The more demonstrative or "sign gifts" such as healing, raising the dead and speaking in tongues were essentially given for the authentication of the apostolic generation and are not normative for today.

**Separation of Church and State.** We believe that civil government is of divine appointment and that we are responsible to be good citizens. However, should civil government command us to violate God's Word, we must obey God rather than man.

**Satan and Evil.** We believe in the reality of Satan and his kingdom of darkness, and that our confrontation of Satan demands belief and trust in God and the effective use of Scripture and other resources God has made available to us.

**The Return of Jesus Christ.** We believe that God has appointed a day, time and way, which only He knows that will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. Until that day, we are to be watchful, ready, and preparing for His return.