

## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

*Hamilton Road Baptist church shares a common set of beliefs with other evangelical churches. Our statement of faith describes the essential elements of the Christian faith found in the Bible.*

### **What we believe...**

#### **1. About God**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

*Genesis 1:26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

#### **2. About Mankind**

We are all made in the spiritual image of God, to be like him in character. We are the supreme object of God's creation. Although mankind has tremendous potential for good, we are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates us from God.

*Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2*

#### **3. About Eternity**

We were all created to exist forever. The Bible speaks of a final judgment through which we will either exist, eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. The place of eternal separation from God is called Hell. Heaven is the place of eternal union and eternal life with God.

*John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15, 21:27; Matthew 25:41; Hebrew 9:27, 28*

#### **4. About Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all by dying on a cross. After three days God raised him to life again to demonstrate his power over sin and death. He ascended into heaven and will return again to judge the living and the dead and to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; John 14:3, 10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9,11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:3*

## 5. About Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God to mankind. We cannot earn salvation by what we do. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from the penalty of sin. Eternal life begins from the moment we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith.

*Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6; John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 1:5*

## 6. About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with God and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make mankind aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian believer from the moment of salvation. He provides Christians with the power for living holy lives, understanding of spiritual truths and guidance in doing what is right. Christians seek to live under His control daily.

*2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:1*

## 7. About the Bible

The Bible is God's word to all mankind. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God it is truth without any mixture of error.

*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5*

## 8. About Baptism

We believe in the baptism of believers by immersion. Baptism does not make you a Christian, it is an outward sign of something that has already taken place internally when you trusted in the person of Jesus Christ. Baptism is a powerful picture of death and resurrection and is a symbol of our new life as Christians.

(Further details on Baptism are contained in our leaflet – What about baptism?)

*Mark 1:9; Matthew 3:16; 28:19-20; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Ephesians 2:8,9; 1 John 2:3*

## Privileges and Responsibilities of membership

1. To hold the Holy Scriptures as the supreme and sufficient rule of faith and practice, and maintain its teachings, as set out in our Basis of Faith.
2. To seek to maintain within this Church, in the spirit of love and unity, those standards of life and practice commended in the New Testament.

3. To share each Lord's Day, unless unavoidably prevented, in the corporate worship of the Church and to be regular and faithful in fellowship at the Lord's Supper.
4. To give systematically as God provides to the work of the Church at home and overseas.
5. To fulfil the ministry of prayer not only privately but also by being present whenever possible at meetings for corporate prayer.
6. To be willing to take some active part in the work of the Church according to our calling and gifts.
7. To take part in the governing of the Church by sharing in the Church Members' Meeting whenever possible, by supporting the Pastors, Elders and Deacons as those set apart by the Lord and His people and, together submitting to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ the Head of the Church.
8. To endeavour to live a life increasingly consistent with our profession and worthy of our high calling in Jesus Christ our Lord, and to witness to Him by word and deed.
9. To attempt to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church by personal invitation, hospitality and such other means as may be given to us.