

# WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

## OUR MISSION

The Mission of Washington Heights Baptist Church is to glorify God and live as a family of Christian believers devoted to Christ's mission of salvation in our community and worldwide with a growing love for God, the Bible, and our neighbors everywhere.

....Adopted January 1999

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### OUR VALUES

We value **TRUTH**: therefore, we are committed to teaching the Bible in a variety of settings with an emphasis on practical life application. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."*-2 Timothy 3:16; *"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction."*-2 Timothy 4:2.

We value **WORSHIP**: therefore, we use a variety of appropriate expressions to honor God for who He is and what He has done. *"Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness."*- Psalm 29:1-2; *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship."*-Romans 12:1.

We value **RELEVANCE**: therefore, we apply the unchanging Word of God using culturally sensitive methods. *"For, 'All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.' And this is the word that was preached to you."*-1 Peter 1:24-25; *"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."*-1 Corinthians 9:22.

We value **PEOPLE**: therefore, we seek to help individuals to know Christ personally and to experience His grace in every aspect of life. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*-John 3:16; *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."*-2 Peter 3:18.

We value **GODLY CHARACTER**: therefore, we encourage each other to become like Christ in every way. *"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."*-1 Timothy 4:8; *"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives..."* 2 Peter 3:11.

We value **FAMILY**: therefore, we embrace the Biblical model and provide opportunities to strengthen marriages and homes. *"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*-Deuteronomy 6:6-7; *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."*-Ephesians 5:21-25; *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'-which is the first commandment with a promise."*--Ephesians 6:1-2.

We value **FELLOWSHIP**: therefore, we nurture authentic, caring relationships in a variety of settings. *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."-Hebrews 10:24-25; "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."-Colossians 3:12-15.*

We value **SERVICE**: therefore, we encourage and equip believers to maximize the use of their gifts and resources for ministry. *"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."-1 Samuel 12:24; "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up"-Ephesians 4:12; "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others; faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."-1Peter 4:10.*

We value **LEADERSHIP**: therefore, we strive to respect those in authority over us while carefully utilizing authority given to us. *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."-1 Corinthians 4:2; "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."-Hebrews 13:7.*

We value **EXCELLENCE**: therefore, we pursue optimum quality in all we do. *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."-2 Corinthians 10:31; "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."-Colossians 3:23.*

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*....Adopted September 15, 1994*

## WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

We, the members of this church, having been led by divine grace to accept Christ as our Redeemer and Lord, deem it proper to make a declaration of our common faith, being assured that as "...with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10

#### I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was (a) written by men supernaturally inspired; (b) that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and (c) therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 12:6; Psalm 119:40; Isaiah 40:8; John 10:35; Matthew 24:35.

#### (EXPLANATORY)

1. By the "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written, does not contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
2. By "INSPIRATION" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

#### II. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is (a) one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; (b) inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; (c) 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. Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; John 4:24; Exodus 20:2-3; Mark 12:29; Revelation 4:11; Exodus 15:11; John 14:16, 18, 23; 1 Corinthians 8:6.

#### III. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

That the Holy Spirit is a divine person; (a) equal with God the Father and (b) God the Son and (c) of the same nature; (d) that He was active in the creation; (e) that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; (f) that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgement; (g) that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; (h) that He is the agent in the New Birth; (i) that He seals, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, leads, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. Acts 5:30-32; John 3:3-6; John 16:8;

Genesis 1:1-3; John 14:26; John 16:13; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; Romans 8:14,16,17; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

#### IV. OF THE DEVIL OR SATAN

We believe that Satan was once (a) holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty; (b) fell and drew after him a host of angels, that he is now (c) the prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world; d) we hold him to be man's great tempter, (e) the enemy of God and His Christ, (f) the accuser of the saints; (g) the author of all false religions, the power back of the present apostasy; (h) the lord of the anti-Christ, and; (i) the author of all the powers of darkness - destined however; (j) to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and; (k) to the judgement of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels. Ezekiel 28:12-19; Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12-15; Jude 6; Revelation 12:10; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 3:4-5; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 2:13; Colossians 1:1-3; Revelation 20:10.

#### V. OF THE CREATION

The Scriptures are our sole authority with reference to creation, as in all other matters binding upon the conscience. They very clearly teach that "In six days God created the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that in them is". Genesis 1:3-27; Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:12-17.

The language implies that each of the six days were comparable to our own, each having its evening and morning, with alternating darkness and light, the result of the Diurnal rotation of the earth upon its axis in relation to a God-given source of light. Persons holding other concepts of creation such as the so-called "Gap Theory," or the "Day-Age Progressive Theory of Creation" shall not be excluded from membership, office, or service providing they refrain from attempting to propagate their view in a manner which would tend to promote division.

#### VI. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe (a) that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but; (b) by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state; (c) in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice and; (d) therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Genesis 3:1-7, 24; Romans 5:12, 19; Romans 1:18-32.

#### VII. OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe (a) that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous and unique manner; (b) born of Mary, a virgin, and; (c) that He is the one and only Son of God, and God, the Son. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:27,35; Romans 1:4; Isaiah 7:14.

#### VIII. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe (a) that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; (b) through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; (c) that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; (d) that having

risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour. Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 2:14,18; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:6-10; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 1-3; Hebrews 10:11-12; Luke 24:6; John 10:17-18.

#### IX. OF GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION

We believe (a) that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; (b) that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; (c) that it is instantaneous and not a process; (d) that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; (e) that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; (f) that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3-5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Peter 1:4; Titus 3:5; John 1:12-13; Galatians 5:22-23.

#### X. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe (a) in God's electing grace; (b) that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; (c) that it is the immediate duty of all the unsaved to accept salvation by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ; and (d) that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; (e) which rejection involves him in present and eternal condemnation. 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 8:29-32; Revelation 22:17; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Acts 20:21; John 6:37; John 5:40; John 3:18; Ephesians 1:4.

#### XI. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; (a) that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the imputing of the righteousness of Christ, whereby one is justified in the sight of God from all things; (b) 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, His righteousness is imputed unto us. Romans 3:24-26,28; Titus 3:5; Romans 4:5; Romans 5:1,9; Galatians 2:16.

#### XII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are (a) solemn obligations; and (b) also inseparable graces; (c) wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; (d) thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; (e) at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and opening confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour and Lord. Luke 13:1-5; Acts 3:19; Acts 20:21; John 6:63-65; John 16:7-8; Luke 18:13; Romans 10:9-10.

#### XIII. OF THE CHURCH (Local)

We believe that a local church is a congregation of baptized born-again believers (a) associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; (b) observing the ordinances of Christ; (c) governed by His authority and (d) exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Work; (e) that its officers are pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; (f) we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission first to make individual disciples and second to build up the church by teaching and instruction as He has commanded.

We hold that (a) the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; (b) that it is scriptural for the true churches to cooperate with each other in the contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; (c) on all matters of membership of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 2:41,42; Ephesians 1:22,23; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Romans 6:3-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 15; Revelation 1; Jude 3.

#### XIV. OF THE TRUE CHURCH

We believe the true church to be composed of the whole number of regenerated persons from Pentecost to the first resurrection, united together and to Christ by the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and is the body of Christ of which He is the head. As such, it is a holy temple for the habitation of God through the Spirit, His "One Flesh" with Christ; and espoused to Him as a chaste virgin to one husband. Hebrews 12:23; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:21-23; Ephesians 5:30-31; 2 Corinthians 11:2-4.

#### XV. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is (a) immersion in water of a believer; (b) into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; (c) to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to new life; (d) that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; (e) that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes; and (f) should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-5; Acts 8:35-39; Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.

#### XVI. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe (a) that such only are real believers as endure to the end; (b) that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark that distinguishes them from superficial professors; (c) that a special providence watches over their welfare; and (d) that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation. Hebrews 10:38-39; John 10:27-29; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 1:13-14.

#### XVII. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that (a) there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; (b) 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; (c) while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; (d) and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; 1 John 5:19; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 25:34,41; John 3:36.

#### XVIII. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is (a) of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; (b) that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; (c) except only in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; (d) who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming prince of the Kings of the earth. Romans 13; 1 Peter 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Matthew 22:21; Philippians 2:9-11; Daniel 3:16-18.

#### XIX. OF THE RESURRECTION, PERSONAL, VISIBLE, PREMILLENIAL RETURN OF CHRIST, AND RELATED EVENTS

We believe (a) in the bodily resurrection. Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6; (b) the ascension. Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 12:2; (c) the high priesthood. Hebrews 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; Hebrews 5:9-10; (d) the second coming. John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; James 5:8; Hebrews 9:28; (e) the resurrection of the righteous dead. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 1 Cor. 15:52. (f) the change of the living in Christ. 1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20; (g) the throne of David. Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7; Acts 2:29-30; (h) the millennial reign. 1 Corinthians 15:25; Isaiah 32:1; Isaiah 11:4-5; Psalm 72:8; Revelation 20:14; Revelation 20:6.