



Commonly Held Essentials

(Adopted at the 2002 Region Biennial)

We worship the triune God of the Bible, who is eternally one God in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We affirm that God is sovereign over all and that His grace is uniquely expressed and realized through His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ. We affirm the Lordship of Christ over the world and the church. Jesus Christ is the only Savior and Lord, calling us to joyously surrender to His purpose and will. We are called to live by the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit, and proclaim the Good News of God's reconciling grace in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:13-29

Ephesians 1:19-23

Philippians 2:5-11

John 16:5-15

Galatians 5:22-23

1 John 5:7

1 Corinthians 12 & 14

We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is the divinely inspired Word of God. As our final authority, it is trustworthy for faith and practice when interpreted responsibly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit within the community of faith. It is the perfect standard for all human conduct and behavior. The essentials necessary for our salvation and the basics of how to conduct our lives are clearly revealed. The primary purpose of the Bible is to point to and glorify Jesus Christ, the living Lord of the Church.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy 2:15

2 Peter 1:20-21

Deuteronomy 4:1-2

The church, as the Body of Christ, includes all believers and is manifested most visibly in local congregations. The church is the presence of the living Christ in the world, led, empowered and gifted by the Holy Spirit to continue His mission. "...[A]s local congregations are connected among themselves to experience together the oneness in Christ, ...they responsibly function as members of the one body." (The American Baptist Quarterly, June 1987, Vol. V, No. 2 "An interdependent people," p. 95)

Romans 12

1 Corinthians 12-14

Ephesians 5:23

Ephesians 4

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:41

God's love for us in Christ is the motivation for loving people and creation. God's love compels us to live and make decisions in accordance with His design in obedience to His Word and will. The heart of God, reflected in both the Old and New Testaments, is to create a redeemed community that loves and serves Him with all their hearts, minds, and bodies. This conviction is the foundation of our commitment to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission. We will continue to be a mission people, carrying the Gospel to our nation and the world.

Mark 12:18-31

Matthew 28:18-20

John 15 – 17

1 John 4:21

Acts 1:8

Romans 12:1-2

Mark 16:15-16

Luke 24:48-49

2 Corinthians 5:14

James 2:14-19