

## **DECLARATION OF FAITH**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation, and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak.

### **THE TRINITY**

We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that these 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 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 that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, and has precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible, premillennial return from heaven.

### **HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality, and His work in regeneration, sanctification, and preservation. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and to implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost and empowering the believer for godly living and service.

### **MAN**

We believe God created man, male and female, in the image of God and free from sin. We further believe man is a sinner by nature and choice and is therefore spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

### **SALVATION**

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God and was purchased by Christ on the cross, and is received by man through faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. We further believe that salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern.

### **THE CHURCH**

We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the Head. We believe that the true church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies whose members have been immersed upon a credible confession of faith and associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for



evangelism and for service. We believe that the ordinances of the local church are the believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and mutual submission of believers to each other in love.

### **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function, and must be free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life, and that each should be free to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience.

### **CHRISTIAN CONDUCT**

We believe that the supreme task of every believer is to glorify God in this life; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself the full stature of maturity in Christ.

### **LAST THINGS**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, in the eternal existence of all men either in heaven or hell, and in divine judgments, rewards, and punishments.

### **COVENANT**

As an association of Conservative Baptist Churches in the Mid-Atlantic region and in the presence of our Lord, we covenant to partner with our fellow Venture Church Network Mid-Atlantic churches in order to...

- Treat each other with love and grace as we seek to honor the many biblical "one-anothers" of Christian fellowship.
- Minister to each other by sharing our strengths and resources so that church leaders can be strengthened for kingdom purposes.
- Encourage churches to pursue maturity with the goal of fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.
- Partner together as an ethnically diverse association of churches committed to honoring and respecting one another.
- Work together to establish new churches.
- Embrace partnership and cooperation in ministry with an attitude that facilitates regional unity, shared vision, networking, and celebration.
- Identify, train, and empower current and future church leaders.
- Develop relationships with other evangelical ministries to assist our churches in fulfilling their God-given vision and mission.
- Support the ministry of Venture Church Network Mid-Atlantic with our prayers, finances, talents, and time.
- Uphold the Venture Church Network Mid-Atlantic Statement of Faith (herein referred to as "Doctrine") to which we subscribe.

(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)\_\_\_\_\_

(Church)\_\_\_\_\_