

## **APPENDIX – Articles of Faith of Southland Baptist Temple**

The following is what we BELIEVE and TEACH at Southland Baptist Temple.

### **I. The Scriptures**

We believe the whole Bible, King James Version, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 as the verbally [verbatim] inspired and infallible Word of the Almighty God. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 119:89, 105, 130, & 160.

### **II. God**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, totally infinite, intelligent and Sovereign, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; 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, Exodus 20:2-3; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 17:5; Philippians 2:5; II Corinthians 13:14.

### **III. Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ was in the beginning with God but was made flesh by the miraculous Conception and Virgin Birth. He was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner. Born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son. John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-19; Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35.

### **His Earthly Life**

Christ lived a perfect life upon earth, being tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 2:22.

### **His Death**

Christ dies on the Cross for our sins [took the sinner's place and died for the sinner's sins] according to the scriptures. The just One [Christ] dying for the unjust one [the sinner] that He might bring us to God. I Corinthians 15: 1-3; II Corinthians 5:22; I Peter 1:18-19; John 1:29; Luke 23:33-46; Galatians 3:13.

### **His Resurrection**

We believe that Christ rose from the grave bodily, upon the first day of the week, according to the scriptures. I Corinthians 15:3-4; John 20; Matthew 28:6-7.

### **His Ascension as Priest**

We believe that Christ ascended back to heaven where He is seated today at the right hand of the Throne of God; and that He alone is our "merciful and faithful High Priest," our [believer's] advocate and mediator for the lost. Acts 1:9; Hebrews 4:14-16; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1-2.

### **His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming as King**

We believe that Christ will come again to this earth, bodily, visibly, and personally. This coming is in two stages. The first stage is the coming of Christ in the air to catch away or call out the Christian [all believers] from this earth up to

## **IX. The New Birth**

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; the New Birth is a new creation in Christ; it is instantaneous and not a process. 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. All of this is a Divine miracle by the power of the Holy Spirit in the connection with the Word of God. Joh 3:3-6; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:23.

## **X. The Freeness of Salvation**

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessing of salvation is made free to all by the Gospel; that is the immediate duty of all to accept it by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and the nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17; Romans 10:13; John 6:37; John 3:18; 3:36.

## **XI. Justification**

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification. Justification includes the pardon of sin, forgiveness, removal of sin, and the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the redeemer's [Christ] blood; His righteousness is imputed unto us. Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1; Titus 3:5-7; Galatians 3:11; Romans 4:1-8.

## **XII. Repentance and Faith**

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; 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 supplications for mercy; at the same time, heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ, and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior. Acts 20:21; Luke 18:13; Romans 10:9-11, 13.

## **XIII. The Local Church or Assembly**

We believe that a local church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinance of Christ; governed by His Word; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; We believe that true mission of the Church is found in the Great Commission: First, to make individual disciples; Second, to baptize them by immersion in water; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded in His Word. 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 Head is Christ. We believe that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; But, that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:42; Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:17-28; Matthew 28:19-20; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-24.

pornography is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. [Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 28:8,9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4] We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman [Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:2; Ephesians 5:22-23]. Anyone who cannot abide by this article of faith may not be a member of this church family. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture or the doctrines of the church.

### **XXII. Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that human life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of a human life, which is murder. We reject any teaching that abortion of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth, or population control, or for the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

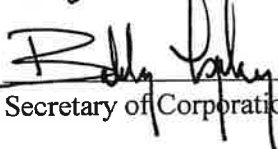
### **End of Articles of Faith**

We hereby certify that this page and the forgoing 34 pages constitute the Church Constitution and Bylaws of SOUTHLAND BAPTIST TEMPLE, INC., which was adopted by a unanimous resolution of the Board of Directors on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2015.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of Deacons

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Corporation