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FBK Essential Beliefs Statement

***Essentials** are the ministry's enduring beliefs - a small set of timeless guiding principles that require no external justification.*

IN THE ESSENTIAL BELIEFS - We have Unity. *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Eph. 4:4-6)*

IN NON-ESSENTIALS - We have Liberty. *"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God...Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God." (Rom. 14:1, 5, 12-13, 22).*

IN ALL OUR BELIEFS - We show Charity (Love). *"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." (1 Cor. 13:2)*

The Essentials We Believe

- 1. God** - is the infinite Creator and Almighty Father of the universe and sovereign over it. He has revealed Himself in three personalities as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1-3; Ps. 8; 19; Matt.28:19; Acts 17:22-34; 2 Cor. 13:13-14; Rev. 1:4-5).
- 2. Jesus Christ** – is the God/Man, who was fully God and fully man. He is the virgin conceived Son of God who lived a sinless life and died on a cross for our sins, and rose from the dead on the third day providing all potential relationship with God through the forgiveness of sins to all who will make Him their personal Lord and Savior (Matt. 16:15-16; Jn. 1:1-5, 12-18; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9; Col. 1:15-20).
- 3. Holy Spirit** - is the third person in the Godhead, who indwells us and then guides us. No effective ministry or Christian living can be accomplished apart from His empowerment. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement (Jn. 14:16-17, 25-28; 16:7-11; Eph. 4:3; 5:17-18).

4. **The Bible** – we believe the Bible to be the inerrant, infallible, indestructible Word of God and our comprehensive guide to successfully living out the Christian life (Josh. 1:8-9; Ps. 19:7-12; Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).
5. **Creation** – we believe that man was created by the direct act of God (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 5:1-2, Colossians 1:15-20).
6. **Humanity** - we are God's highest created beings on the earth, made in His own image. However, the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden has so affected the totality of our nature, understanding, emotions, will, body, and even our spirit have all been warped by sin leaving us in need of God's grace and mercy (Exodus 23:7; Ps. 14:2-3; Rom. 3:10-18, 23; 1 Pet. 2:10).
7. **Salvation** – we believe in God's grace - salvation is found only in repentance toward God of our sins, and placing our faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior (Lk. 13:3, 5; Jn. 3:16; 4:12; 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:21; Eph. 2:8-9).
8. **Eternal Security** - is our belief that salvation is a one-time permanent experience that cannot be lost in this lifetime or in eternity. Those who are truly God's people will persevere unto the end (John 10:28-30; Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12).
9. **Eternity** - is our belief that God dwells in heaven and all who accept the gospel of Christ will live there with Him for eternity. Hell exists for those who rebel against God and His message of hope (John 14:1-6; Rev. 21:1-5; Matt. 10:28; Lk. 16:19-31).
10. **Prayer** – is talking, communicating and communing with God. Prayer is asking, seeking, and knocking in our relationship with God. God moves in response to our personal and united prayer. (Matt. 6:9-15; Lk. 18:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; James 5:15-18).
11. **Church** - is a local body of baptized believers whose desire is to serve their head - Jesus Christ. Their heart is to evangelize, disciple, and ministry to their community and world in the spirit of unity and purpose. It is only referred to as universal in a few passages (Matt. 16:17-18; Acts 2:41-47; Eph. 4:11-16).
12. **Baptism & Lord's Supper** – We have two ordinances: After a person has received Christ as their Lord and Savior, we are to baptize them by immersion. It is not part of the salvation experience, but a step of obedience soon thereafter. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; 8:12-13, 8:35-38; Romans 6:1-6).

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic worship remembrance where the elements of the grape juice or wine (Jesus' blood) and the bread (Jesus' body) were given to us to provide salvation to all. It is a time of reflection of the great sacrifice of Christ and our service to Him. (Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:13-20; Acts 2:41; 8:12-13, 8:35-38 1 Corinthians 11:23-30).

The Essentials We Practice

1. We are a Great Commandment and Great Commission church, and we will fulfill the five purposes in our church of: Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Discipleship and Fellowship (Mt. 22:37-40; 28:18-20).
2. People are extremely important to God and to us. We are to love one another and those outside His church (Lk. 15; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Pet. 3:9; John 13:35; 1 Cor. 13:1-13).
3. Second only to God, family is placed above all other things (Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 128:1-6; Eph. 5:22-6:4)
4. God gave salvation so that we would be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
5. Evangelism, ministry and discipleship must be carried out in relevant ways (1 Cor. 9:22).
6. Every Christian is a minister of Christ and gifted by the Holy Spirit for service (Romans 12:3-8; Eph. 4:11-13).
7. Everything we do for Christ must be done with excellence (Col. 3:23-24).
8. We are commanded as His church to growing numerically and in the grace and knowledge of Christ (Mt. 9:35-38; 16:18; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).
9. We must make every effort to maintain unity in the essentials (Ps. 133; Jn. 17:12-22; Eph. 4:4-6; Rom. 12:1-2).
10. To accomplish our mission, we must be willing to step out in visionary faith and be willing to take risks for God (Heb. 11:6).
11. To be obedient to our Lord, we must give of our self, time and monies (tithing & sacrificial giving) to see God's will accomplished in our lives and in our church (Matt. 20:28; I Cor. 12:1-7; Mal. 3:10; 1 Cor. 16:1-4)
12. Every Christian is to pray and seek God's guidance in all we do. Nothing great is ever accomplished apart from prayer, so we must be a praying people (Matthew 6:9-15; Luke 18:1, 1 Thess. 5:18).

Who We Are:

- ◆ We are evangelistic.
- ◆ We are missions minded.
- ◆ We minister to all ages.
- ◆ We leave no one behind.
- ◆ We love and nurture each other.
- ◆ We reject immoral behavior.
- ◆ We have chosen for now a blended style of worship.

As a cooperating SBC congregation we affirm the Southern Baptist Convention's *2000 Baptist Faith & Message* statement of faith as ours as well.