

Minnesota Association of Regular Baptist Churches



Articles of Faith and Constitution

Updated Sept 2025

Articles of Faith

I. The Scriptures

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plenerily inspired and is the product of Spirit controlled men, and therefore is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinions shall be tried (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet.1:19-21).

II. The True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker 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 Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Ex.20:2,3; I Cor.8:6; Rev.4:11).

III. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin; of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer (John 14:16,17, 26; Matt.28:19; Heb.9:14; Luke 1:35; Gen.1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Eph.1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Rom.8:14,16,26,27).

IV. The Devil or Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created by God as an angel, but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Matt.4:1-11; II Cor.4:4; Rev. 20:10).

V. Creation

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God

without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race (Gen.1:1,2; Col.1:16,17; John 1:3).

VI. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature, and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Gen.3:1-6; Rom.3:10-19; 5:12, 19; 1:18,32).

VII. The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus 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 woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son (Gen.3:15; Isa.7:14; Matt.1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14).

VIII. Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial

offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death, He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a 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; 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 in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith (Jonah 2:9; Eph.2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom.3:24,25; John 3:16; Matt.18:11; Phil.2:7,8; Heb.2:14-17; Isa.53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Cor.15:3; II Cor.5:21; I Peter 2:24).

IX. Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us (Matt.28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor.15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6,51; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 3:21;

Heb.8:6; 12:2; 7:25; I
Tim.2:5; I John 2:1; Heb.2:17; 5:9,10).

X. Grace and the New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; 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; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life (John 3:3,8; II Cor.5:17; I John 5:1; Eph.2:1; Acts 16:20-33; II Pet.1:4; Rom.6:23; Col.2:13).

XI. Justification

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of 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 shed blood (Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 5:1,9; Gal.2:16 Phil 3:9).

XII. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God, accomplished in a three-fold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return (Heb.10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; Jude 24,25; II Cor. 3:18; I Cor.1:30; Eph. 5:25-27; I Thess. 4:3,4; 5:23,24; I John 3:2; Rev. 22:11).

XIII. The Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ (Phil.1:6; John 10:28,29; Rom.8:35-39; Jude 1).

XIV. The Church

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; 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 the mission of the church is the faithful

witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that 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; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation, that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final (I Cor.11:2; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim.3:1-13; Acts 2:41,42).

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in the church which is the Body of Christ (I Cor.12:12,13; Col 1:18; Eph.1:22,23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23; Acts 15:13-18).

XV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He come and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is

baptism first and then the Lord's Supper, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers. (Acts 2:41,42; 8:36,38,39; John 3:23; Rom.6:3-5; Matt.3:16; 28:18-20; Col.2:12; I Cor.11:23-28)

XV. Separation

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy. II Cor.6:14-7:1; I Thess.1:9,10; I Tim.6:3-5; Rom.16:17; II John 9-11).

XVI. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of kings (Rom.13:1-7; I Sam. 23:3; Ex.18:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19,20; 23:5; Matt.22:21; Dan.3:17,18).

XVIII. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ,

and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Gen.13:14-17; Rom.11:1-32; Ezek.37).

XIX. Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation (Rev. 3:10; I Thess.4:13-18; I Cor.15:42-44, 51-54; Phil.3:20,21).

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the Revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the Throne of David and to establish the Millennium Kingdom (Dan.9:25-27; Matt.24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isa.9:6,7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29,30; Rev.20:1-4,6).

XX. The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of

the saved and the ever-lasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire (Mal.3:18; Gen.18:23; Rom.6:17,18; I John 5:19; Rom.7:6; 6:23; Prov.14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21; Matt.25:34-41; Rev.20:14,15).

Constitution

Article I. Name

The Minnesota Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

Article II. Purpose

To provide a fellowship for all Baptist churches which subscribe to the Constitution and Articles of Faith herein contained, and to encourage and promote the establishment of Regular Baptist Churches and missionary endeavor wherever possible.

Article III. Meetings

A. An annual meeting for the Association shall be held for the transaction of business, election of officers, and Bible conference and missionary effort. The time and place of the meetings may be held as needed.

B. Meetings other than the annual meeting may be called by the Council of Seven and shall require at least 4 weeks notice.

Article IV. Officers and Their Election

A. Size of the Council:

The officers shall consist of SEVEN (7) men, who shall be

members of churches in fellowship with the Minnesota Association of Regular Baptist churches.

B. How Elected:

1. The council of officers shall consist of at least TWO (2) members from each Regional Fellowship within the state.

2. An officer shall serve for a term of THREE (3) years. Any officer completing TWO (2) consecutive terms of THREE (3) years shall be ineligible for election for at least ONE (1) year. (Adopted in 2008)

3. TWO (2) shall be elected during two successive years, and THREE (3) on the third year. (Adopted in 2008)

4. Any unexpired term shall be filled by appointment of the council until the next annual meeting. If the term extends beyond that annual meeting, then the messengers will vote on his extension. (Adopted in 2008)

5. The Council shall be elected in the following manner:
Each church in fellowship with the Association shall meet in business session and nominate as many names (pastors and laymen) for the Council as it may desire. These names shall be sent to the Secretary of the Council at least TWO (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting. The Secretary shall tabulate all the names and prepare the ballot from the highest number of nominations, which ballot is to be composed of twice the number of names as there are vacancies. Extra names may be included on the ballot only in case of a tie.
Each church in the Association shall designate TWO (2) of its messengers to serve on the Elections Committee. At an announced time during the annual meeting, at the call

of the Secretary, this Committee shall meet, at which time the names of the Nominees shall be presented to it, and each member shall vote by ballot. Those receiving the highest vote shall be considered elected to the Council.

6. The Council shall organize itself by the selection of a Moderator to preside at all meetings of the association, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers and committees as may be required.

7. All new members of the Council shall be presented at the closing session of the annual meeting and shall assume their Council duties as of that session.

8. All nominees for the Council of Seven shall be Scripturally qualified. The Council of Seven shall be responsible for examining the qualifications of the nominee prior to their name appearing on the ballot. No one may be elected to the Council of Seven unless he has been a member in good standing:

a. Of a church in fellowship with the MARBC for at least two years and

b. A member of a fellowshiping church for at least the two years prior to nomination.

Article V. Duties of the Council

A. To plan and arrange the annual program in consultation with the pastor of the entertaining church.

B. To receive and investigate all applications from churches seeking fellowship in this Association and to

report to the business session at the following annual meeting for action by the Association.

C. To review the evidence of any departure from the Constitution and Articles of Faith of the Association on the part of any church; after said church has been properly exhorted and advised, then shall the Council make recommendation to the Association for its action.

D. To approve agencies:

1. It shall be the policy of the Association to abstain from the creation and/or control of educational, missionary, camping, and other benevolent agencies.

2. Any such agencies desiring the approval of the Association shall make application in writing to the Council.

3. In order to qualify for such approval, any agency must carry the name Baptist in its title, and must be sound in doctrine, organization, business administration, and ethical practices. It shall be the duty of the Council to determine the eligibility of such agencies as apply for approval, and such agencies shall be re-examined annually by the Council.

4. The list compiled annually by the Council shall be published and advertised to our churches as approved agencies.

E. At the discretion of the Council a state association newspaper or periodical shall be established. The

responsibility for editing, material content, and frequency of publication shall be determined by the Council.

F. All Council of Seven members are expected to attend all Council of Seven meetings unless providentially hindered.

Repeated absences will require resignation upon the request of the Council.

Article VI. State Representative:

The State Representative is the man chosen to work for and on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Regular Baptist Churches. He shall be called or dismissed according to the policies set forward in the Policy Manual of the Council of Seven. He shall be in full agreement with the Articles of Faith of the Association. The Council of Seven is responsible for defining his ministry, giving him direction and counsel, setting his salary and allowance, and in general, working with him in the overall work of the Association.

Article VII. Membership and Voting Power

A. Any Baptist church in the state of Minnesota which is not in fellowship or cooperation with any National or Local Convention, Association or group which permits the presence of Modernists or Modernism, and which church subscribes to the Constitution and Articles of Faith herein contained, and signifies in writing its desire

to be considered in fellowship with the Association, may upon such written notice and recommendation of the council, be received into the Association by a majority vote of the Association. Such notice of the church's desire shall be presented to the Association by the clerk of the church.

B. No limit shall be placed on the number privileged to attend any duly called meeting of the Association, but each church, regardless of numerical size, shall designate THREE (3) of its members as messengers who shall be entitled to vote at all sessions of any duly called meeting; TWO (2) of whom shall have been designated by the church to act on the Elections Committee.

C. While being a fellowship of and for Regular Baptist Churches, the Association does nevertheless invite, urge, and welcome all believers in Christ, pastors and churches who seek Christian fellowship, to meet with us in our annual meeting and in other meetings called for fellowship and mutual help.

Article VIII. Dismissing of Churches

Association may be dissolved for any church:

A. By action of the local church in notifying in writing the Secretary of the Council of such desire on the part of the local church.

B. By recommendation of the Council and by majority vote of the messengers present at the annual meeting, according to Article V, Section C.

Article IX. Regional Fellowships

A. Recognizing that Association church in various issues of the state may wish to band together for fellowship, youth work, missionary conferences, and other activities, Regional Fellowships within the State Association may be established.

B. Any church in fellowship with the Minnesota Association of Regular Baptist Churches within a Regional Fellowship area shall automatically be a member of that Fellowship.

C. Any such fellowship shall hold the same Articles of Faith as the Minnesota Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

D. Any such fellowship shall have its own constitution and officers to oversee its activities. E. Any such fellowship shall be approved by the Minnesota Association of Regular Baptist Churches at the annual meeting following the organization of the fellowship.

Article X. Quorum

A quorum shall be constituted when two-thirds of the churches of the Association are represented at the Annual Meeting or any other meeting of the Association. A roll call shall be taken at each meeting.

Article XI. Amendments

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present, providing ONE (1) year's notice has been given of the proposed alteration in writing and it has been read before the Association at the last annual meeting.

Article XII. Dissolution

In the event a decision is made to dissolve this Association, provision shall be made by majority vote of the Association, previous to the dissolution, to assign all of the assets to one or more fundamental, Bible-believing, Baptist, non-profit organizations, such as churches, missions, schools, camps, or associations. None of the assets shall be given to any individual.