



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH for TBC Rockford

1. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. *Mark 12:36; John 10:35; Acts 3:18; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 13; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:21*

2. THE TRINITY

We believe there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the 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. *Matthew 3:16, 17; John 14:16, 17; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 2:13, 18; Hebrews 9:14; Jude 20, 21*

3. GOD, THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that 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. *Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4; Acts 5:30, 31; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:17-20; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 1:4-6*

4. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. *Isaiah 7:14; John 1:1, 14; John 14:1-36; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 7:25-27; Revelation 20:4-6*

5. HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. We believe that every believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the one Body (Church) at the moment of salvation. *Matthew 28:19; John 1:33; John 14:16, 17; John 16:7-14; Romans 8:9, 14, 16, 27; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Hebrews 9:14*

6. REGENERATION

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated, indwelt, sealed, and eternally secured by the Holy Spirit. *Luke 13:1-5; John 1:12, 13; John 3:18, 36; John 10:27-29; Romans 3:9-20, 23; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:38-39; Romans 10:8-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 2:4-6; Titus 3:5, 6; Hebrews 12:15; 1 Peter 1:23, 25*

7. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has given two ordinances for His believers to observe, following regeneration by the Holy Spirit: baptism and communion. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that communion was instituted by Christ for the commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Matthew 26:26-29; Matthew 28:19, 20; Luke 22:15-20; John 3:23; John 4:1, 2; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Corinthians 11:23-33*

8. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, that are baptized on a credible profession of faith and united for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has commissioned the members of each local church with the primary task of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. *Matthew 16:16-18; Luke 24:46-49; John 3:5; Acts 1:7, 8; Acts 2:37-47; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 11:21; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 20; Ephesians 1:23; Ephesians 4:3-10, 12; Colossians 1:18; Colossians 3:14, 15; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-9*

9. CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

We believe a Christian's life should be characterized by a passion to live out the teachings of God's Word, demonstrating a heart of purity and repentance, love for others, forgiveness, joy, and confidence in Christ. A Christian should be eager to make his own time and resources available in accordance with the Lord's plan for his life. *Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Corinthians 6:12, 19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; 2 Corinthians 1:1-7; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Ephesians 4:13-15; Philippians 2:15; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:14, 18*

10. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that Church and State must be kept separate, having different functions and each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. *Matthew 11:28-30; Matthew 22:20, 21; John 14:6; Acts 4:19, 20; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Peter 2:13-17*

11. CHURCH COOPERATION

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with inter-denominational fellowships and evangelical parachurch organizations on a voluntary basis. *Acts 15:13-18; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 18-24*

12. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the imminent, personal, and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal life of worship and service to Jesus Christ for the believer, and the endless suffering of the unbeliever. *Isaiah 13:9-11; Daniel 12:1-3; Malachi 4:1-3; Matthew 24:15-28; Luke 12:35-40; Luke 17:26-30; John 14:1-4; Acts 15:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 2; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Jude 14, 15; Revelation 1:4-7*