

DEFINING STATEMENTS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016

Century Meadows Baptist Church

Founded 1901

Known Revisions

Revised 2010

Revised 2016







These articles define our beliefs, mission, vision, and values.

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Article 1 — STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

- D1.1** We believe the Bible is God’s Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God’s revelation of Himself to humanity.¹ It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct.² It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity.³
- D1.2** We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy, and love.⁴ He exists eternally in three coequal persons who act together in creation, providence, and redemption.⁵
- D1.2.1** The Father reigns with providential care over all life and history in the created universe. He hears and answers prayer.⁶ He initiated salvation by sending His Son, and He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Savior.⁷
- D1.2.2** The Son became man, Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.⁸ Being fully God and fully man, He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles, and teaching.⁹ He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection.¹⁰ He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation.¹¹ He intercedes for all believers and dwells in them as their ever-present Lord.¹²
- D1.2.3** The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures.¹³ Through this Word, He convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of the righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Savior, and bears witness to their new birth.¹⁴ At regeneration and conversion, the believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit.¹⁵ The Spirit indwells, seals, and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society.¹⁶ He empowers, guides, teaches, fills, sanctifies, and produces the fruit of Christlikeness in all who yield to Him.¹⁷
- D1.3** We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will.¹⁸ The holy angels are obedient spirits ministering to the heirs of salvation and glorifying God.¹⁹ Certain angels, called demons, Satan being their chief, through deliberate choice revolted and fell from their exalted position.²⁰ They now tempt individuals to rebel against God.²¹ Their destiny in hell has been sealed by Christ’s victory over sin and death.²²
- D1.4** We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation.²³ As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect.²⁴ Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation.²⁵ Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God.²⁶ Satan tempts people to rebel against God, even those who love Him.²⁷ Nonetheless, everyone is personally responsible to God for thoughts, actions, and beliefs and has the right to approach Him directly through Jesus Christ, the only mediator.²⁸
- D1.5** We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death.²⁹ It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.³⁰ An individual is united to Christ by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit.³¹ As a child of God, the believer is acquitted of all guilt and brought into a new relationship of peace.³² Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God.³³



D1.6 We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members.³⁴ Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.³⁵ Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility.³⁶ The form of government is understood to be congregational.³⁷

The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.³⁸ It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ.³⁹ The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns.⁴⁰

To express unity in Christ, local churches form associations and a conference for mutual counsel, fellowship, and a more effective fulfillment of Christ's commission.⁴¹

D1.7 We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God.⁴² Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other.⁴³ Christians should pray for civil leaders, and obey and support government in matters not contrary to Scripture.⁴⁴ The state should guarantee religious liberty to all persons and groups regardless of their religious preferences, consistent with the common good.

D1.8 We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society.⁴⁵ In a Christ like spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions.⁴⁶

We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability.⁴⁷ We believe the Bible teaches that marriage refers to the covenant relationship exclusively between one man and one woman, as instituted by God in the beginning.⁴⁸

D1.9 We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth.⁴⁹ The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly in glory according to His promise.⁵⁰ The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness.⁵¹ The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels.⁵² The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord.⁵³

Adopted by the North American Baptist Conference delegates, August 10-15, 1982, Niagara Falls, NY. Section 8 amended by the delegates, July 15-19, 2009, Winnipeg, MB.

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16

² 1 Peter 1:23-25; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

³ John 20:31, 1 John 5:9-12; Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2

⁴ 1 Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4

⁵ Genesis 1:26; 1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3

⁶ 1 Chronicles 29:11-13; Matthew 7:11



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- ⁷ 1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31
⁸ John 1:14; Matthew 1:18
⁹ John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23-24
¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25
¹¹ Philippians 2:5-11
¹² Romans 8:34; John 14:23
¹³ 2 Peter 1:21
¹⁴ James 1:18; John 16:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16
¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:13
¹⁶ Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; 1 Peter 4:10
¹⁷ Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 5:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:13
¹⁸ Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16
¹⁹ Hebrews 1:6-7; 13-14
²⁰ Revelation 12:7-9
²¹ 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 5:8
²² Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10
²³ Genesis 1:26-28
²⁴ Psalm 139:13-17
²⁵ Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8-22
²⁶ Romans 3:9-18, 23
²⁷ Ephesians 4:27; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 16:23
²⁸ Romans 14:12; 1 Timothy 2:5
²⁹ 2 Timothy 1:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
³⁰ 1 Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 20:21
³¹ Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27
³² Romans 5:1
³³ 2 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15; 1 Thessalonians 3:12
³⁴ Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5
³⁵ Acts 2:41-42, 47; Luke 24:45-48
³⁶ Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28
³⁷ Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23
³⁸ Matthew 28:18-20
³⁹ Romans 6:3-5
⁴⁰ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
⁴¹ Acts 15; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3
⁴² Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29
⁴³ Matthew 22:21
⁴⁴ 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-16
⁴⁵ Matthew 5:13-16
⁴⁶ Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; 1 John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4
⁴⁷ Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4
⁴⁸ Genesis 2:20b-24; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4
⁴⁹ Ephesians 1:9-10; Revelation 21:1
⁵⁰ Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3
⁵¹ John 5:28-29
⁵² Matthew 25-41, 46; Revelation 20; 10
⁵³ Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



Article 2 – STATEMENT OF MISSION

Our Mission: We exist to glorify God, whom we love, by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

In keeping with this mission, we shall:

- D2.1** Seek to know the Triune God and meet regularly for corporate worship of Him.
- D2.2** Teach and exemplify the Biblical ingredients of a disciple of Jesus. In all things we strive for great commandment and great commission health.¹
- D2.3** Incorporate people, according to their giftedness, to teaching, encouraging, exhorting, praying, giving, helping, and using every means given to us by His Holy Spirit to minister to the body of Christ, our community, and the world.

Key strategic aspects of our mission shall be identified in that:

D2.4 We are a New Creation: Celebrating God Together ...with our whole life!

We believe as Christians our first priority to God, as expressed in the Great Commandment, is to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind.² We love God because He first loved us.³ As the greatest expression of our love for God, we are committed to a private and public worship of Him, “in spirit and in truth” with our whole life.⁴

We celebrate together who God is, what He has done, continues to do, and who we are in Him through Christ. As new creations in Christ we celebrate forgiveness, the gracious gift of eternal life, and the powerful presence of His Spirit.⁵ We will grow in our expression of worship by giving true honour to the Living Word (Jesus Christ) and the written Word (The Scriptures.) We celebrate God together through our worship services and daily as we seek to glorify God in all we do.⁶

D2.5 We are part of the Family of God: Connecting Together.... with loving hearts!

We believe through faith in Christ we are adopted into God’s family.⁷ We further believe, in accordance with the Great Commission, that the expression of our salvation in Christ is made public through baptism by immersion. This ordinance symbolizes one’s introductory commitment to the fellowship and community of the local church.

As we connect together we are committed to the truth that the local church is to be a community of relationships built upon Jesus Christ the Head of the church, and His Word.⁸ We seek to love each other as God directs His family to pray, encourage, forgive, and bear one another’s burdens. We endeavour to see the church as a place where relationships are nurtured, gifts are expressed, and the individual ministers to the church, and the church ministers to the individual.⁹

D2.6 We are Christ Followers: Growing Together.... maturing in our reflection of Christ

We believe that a significant part of reaching and raising people for Christ is to teach them to “obey everything I (Christ) have commanded you.”¹⁰ This is so that we might experience and testify to the joyful life He calls us to.¹¹



We grow together in following Jesus by maturing in Christ-like character, attitude, priorities, and behaviour.¹² Our endeavour in teaching the Scriptures is to see “life change,” with an ever-growing obedience to Jesus Christ in all things, each day living wholly devoted to Him.¹³

D2.7 We are the Body of Christ: Serving Together.... ministering grace with willing hands.

We believe that loving God cannot be separated from loving people. The second part of the Great Commandment is to “love your neighbour as yourself.” We believe it is both a privilege and a responsibility to belong to the Body of Christ.¹⁴

We serve together as we administer God’s grace and mercy, to the weak, weary, broken, and hurting. Spiritual gifts are given to each believer just as the Spirit has determined for the building up of the Body of Christ.¹⁵ We are each called to use our gifts to serve, in connection with the Body of Christ.¹⁶ We will endeavour to encourage people to extend God’s grace by serving others with a Christ-like spirit.¹⁷

D2.8 We are Missionaries: Going Together.... with ready feet to multiply disciples in all the world!

We believe that one of the central purposes of the Church is expressed in Jesus’s last words on the earth – the Great Commission.¹⁸ The Church is to “go and make disciples” evangelizing those who are without a personal understanding of God’s salvation through Christ. We believe that God’s love is not only personal but for everyone in the world.¹⁹

We seek to go together empowered by His Spirit as His ambassadors to reconcile the world into a right relationship with Him.²⁰ Jesus modelled this missionary life for us as He intentionally came to seek and save the lost.²¹ We likewise go into the entire world ready to point others to the Christ who saves.²²

We endeavour to live forward together in Christ and together for Christ. Worshipfully living out our God made identity in Christ, in accordance with His Word, empowered by His Spirit, to reach and raise disciples of Christ to the glory of God.

¹ Matthew 22:37-38; Matthew 28:19-20

² Matthew 22:37-38

³ 1 John 4:19

⁴ John 4:24; Romans 12:1-2

⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4-5; Romans 8:1-11

⁶ I Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-2

⁷ Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 1:5; 2:19; Romans 8:15-17

⁸ Ephesians 1:22

⁹ 2 Timothy 3:16-4:2

¹⁰ Matthew 28:19

¹¹ John 10:10

¹² Romans 8:29; Philippians 2:5; Colossians 2:6-8; 1 John 2:5-6

¹³ Matthew 28:20; Acts 2:42

¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:27

¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11

¹⁶ Ephesians 2:10; 4:12

¹⁷ Ephesians 4:12; 1 Peter 4:10-11



¹⁸ Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ John 3:16; 17:3

²⁰ Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

²¹ Luke 19:10

²² 1 Peter 3:15-16

Article 3 – STATEMENT OF VISION

Our Vision: Christ’s love compels us to passionately join Him in Reaching and Raising One New Life, One New Family, One New Community, One New Nation to become disciples of Christ.

The Heartbeat of the Gospel is evidenced in our reaching and raising:

D3.1 One New Life

Each life matters to God.¹

D3.2 One New Family

God’s ordained family unit is essential to disciple making.²

D3.3 One New Community

We are called be a witness in both our community and to reach surrounding communities.³

D3.4 One New Nation

We are commissioned to make disciples of all nations.⁴

¹ Luke 15:1-32; John 4:1-42; Mark 5:21-34; Luke 19:1-9

² Deuteronomy 6:4-8; Mark 2:11; Mark 2:19; Ephesians 6:1-4

³ Mark 1:38; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-48; Acts 8:4-8

⁴ Matt 28:19-20; Rev. 7:9

Article 4 – STATEMENT OF VALUES

D4.1 Celebrating Together

- We believe that personal and corporate worship is essential to the health of every believer.¹
- We believe that God is magnified, honored, glorified when we worship and serve Him with our best.²

D4.2 Connecting Together

- We believe that the church should be a community of servants who are unified, loving and mutually accountable.³
- We believe that true Christian community, care, and life-change occur most readily in small groups.⁴

**D4.3 Growing Together**

- We believe that Bible teaching that is faithful to the Scriptures and practically applied to life is a prime catalyst for change in people's lives.⁵
- We believe that every believer should be fully devoted to Christ.⁶

D4.4 Serving Together

- We believe that service to God and others is the natural outcome of God's grace in a person's heart.⁷
- We believe that the church is to be led by godly, gifted leaders who empower people to minister God's grace with all of the church's resources being governed by biblical principles.⁸

D4.5 Going Together

- We believe that every believer should be committed to influencing their circle of friends toward Christ.⁹
- We believe the church is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, culturally relevant, but doctrinally pure.¹⁰

¹ John 4:23, 24; Hebrews 10:25

² Romans 12:1, 2

³ Peter 3:8, 9

⁴ Acts 2:44-47

⁵ 1 Timothy 3:15-17

⁶ 1 Corinthians 10:31

⁷ Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ Ephesians 4:11-14

⁹ 1 Peter 3:15

¹⁰ Matthew 28:19, 20

Article 5 – STATEMENT OF COVENANT OF COMMITMENT

D5.1 Our Covenant of Life Together

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord; and on the confession of this faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most sincerely and joyfully covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.¹

D5.2 Our Covenant to Participate in the Ordinances

Recognizing that Christ gave the Church two ordinances to be observed until He comes, we practice them in faith and obedience. We recognize the necessity to be baptized following faith in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.² Then, as an ongoing practice, we recognize the importance of participating regularly in the ordinance of communion.³

**D5.3 Our Covenant for the Advancement of the Church**

We promise, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view, we will, with God's help, work together for both the peace and purity of this church, to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish and uphold its ordinances, disciplines and doctrines.⁴

D5.4 Our Covenant as Christian Stewards

We shall, with God's help, contribute as faithful stewards, time, abilities, and finances in the measure that God has given to each of us, so that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the gospel may be faithfully and effectively discharged.⁵

D5.5 Our Covenant While Alone and At Home

We shall undertake, with our Lord's help, to maintain family and private devotions, to teach the Bible to our children and to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.⁶

D5.6 Our Covenant Before the World

We shall, with the help of God, be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements, be exemplary in our deportment, avoiding unkind words and unrighteous anger, remembering always and in everything that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We shall, with God's help, combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior and make Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.⁷

D5.7 Our Covenant Toward One Another

We shall, by the grace of God and with His help, give and receive admonition with meekness and affection, remembering each other in prayer, aiding each other in case of sickness and distress, cultivating Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech, being slow to take offence but being always ready for reconciliation and encouraging one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.⁸

D5.8 Our Covenant If We Move

If we move from this place, we shall endeavor, as soon as possible to unite with a local church where we are encouraged to carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.⁹

¹ Romans 12:3-8; Colossians 3:12-14

² Matthew 28:18-20

³ I Corinthians 11:23-32

⁴ Philippians 2:14-16

⁵ I Peter 4:10

⁶ Ephesians 6:4

⁷ 1 Peter 3:15-16; Colossians 4:6

⁸ Hebrews 10:24

⁹ Hebrews 10:25



Article 6 — STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

- D6.1** In accordance to the NAB Statement of Beliefs (section 1.4), we affirm that each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect.
- D6.2** We also affirm that we are called to introduce each person to the loving, reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ and the life changing transformation described in Scripture.
- D6.3** We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that marriage is the spiritual and legal union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. To recognize any other form of union, as a legitimate marriage, or, as a legitimate form of sexual expression, would be contrary to our understanding of the Scripture. It would also be contrary to the stated positions of the ABA and NABC, of which the church is affiliated. *(See “A Christian Affirmation of Marriage, North American Baptists, adopted by the North American Baptists delegates, July 5-9, 2006, Estes Park, CO. Revision approved by the General Council, May 14, 2011, Orlando, FL. Adopted with Scripture References by the North American Baptists delegates, July 5, 2012, Orlando, FL.)*
- D6.4** Though as Christians we seek to demonstrate God’s love to all people, we will not compromise our convictions on marriage as defined by Scripture.
- D6.5** We, the church, also establish the standard that no individual in any way associated with the church shall officiate at or co-officiate at a ceremony to celebrate any union not conforming to the previously stated definition of marriage.
- D6.6** The facilities of the church will not be used for weddings, blessings, celebrations, receptions or any other gathering where the union does not conform to the previously stated definition of marriage.
- D6.7** Application of all the above items will extend to include retreats, camps, seminars or any other activities of the church.



I have read and do affirm the Defining Statements of Century Meadows Baptist Church.

Name _____

Date: _____

Invitation to Membership

Individuals who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, who have been baptized by immersion as believers, who affirm the Defining Statements of CMBC, and who desire to actively participate in the mission, vision, values and ministries of the church are eligible to become members of CMBC.

To inquire about church membership, please contact a deacon or pastor.