

DEFINING STATEMENTS

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 27, 2023

Century Meadows Baptist Church

Founded 1901

Known Revisions

Revised 2010

Revised 2016

Revised 2023



CENTURY MEADOWS
BAPTIST CHURCH





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

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Revisions

Membership Meeting Date	Membership Motion Reference	Sections Revised
January 1, 2016		2016 version became effective.
June 21, 2021	C3.4.2	Correction by replacing in the <u>Invitation to Membership</u> on page 7 “baptized by immersion as believers” with “baptized as believers” to align with the constitutional change in C5.1 Membership Qualifications on June 21, 2021.
November 27, 2023	C5.6.1	Replaced Articles 2, 3, and 4.



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

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



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- 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

Living out the hope we have in Jesus through extraordinary love for others; guiding individuals into a close walk with Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Article 3 – STATEMENT OF VISION

With love for God as our foundation, we are committed to be a transformed community, following Christ's example and serving others.

Article 4 – STATEMENT OF VALUES

We value:

Worship

- Personal and corporate worship is essential to the health of every believer (John 4:23-24).
- God is magnified, honored, and glorified when we worship and serve Him with our best (Romans 12:1-2).

Service

- Service to God and others is the natural outcome of God's grace in a person's heart (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- 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 (Ephesians 4:11-14).

Evangelism

- Every believer should be committed to influencing their circle of friends toward Christ (1 Peter 3:15).
- The church is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, culturally relevant, but doctrinally pure (Matthew 28:19-20).

Community

- The church should be a community of servants who are unified, loving, and mutually accountable (1 Peter 3:8-9).
- True Christian community, care, and life-change occurs most readily in small groups (Acts 2:44-47).

Character

- Bible teaching that is faithful to the Scriptures and practically applied to life is a prime catalyst for change in people's lives (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
- Every believer should be fully devoted to Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31).



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



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- 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 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.