

# Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church of Atwater

## Articles of Faith

**Of the Scriptures:** We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of the Spirit controlled men and therefore is truth without any admixture of error for it to matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

### **Of the True God:**

a. **God the Father:** We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressively 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.

b. **God the Son:** We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He was divine as no other man can be, being every God of every God, existing from all eternity, co-equal with the Father and the Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His Deity; that as man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.

c. **God 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, or 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, indwelling every true child of God.

**Of the Devil, or Satan:** We believe in the distinct personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, of sin, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire.

**Of the Creation:** We believe that God created the heaven and the earth, including all life, each after its own kind by direct act, and not by the process of evolution.

**Of the Fall of Man:** We believe that man, in the person of the first man, Adam, was created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression fell into sin, thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind is born in sin and become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice, and so are without excuse before God.

**Of the Atonement for Sin:** We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement 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 on 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.

**Of Salvation by Grace:** 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 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 fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

**Of the Security of Believers:** We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ.

**Of Justification:** We believe that the Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification.

a. That justification included the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness;

b. That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood is His righteousness imputed to us.

**Of Faith and Salvation:** We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

**Of the Local Church:** We believe that a local church is a congregation of baptized 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 elders and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures. We believe the true 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 any 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 on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence. The will of the church is final.

**Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper:** We believe that in obedience to the Lord's command, Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is the pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. The pastor or elder shall limit the invitation to those who know the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior.

**Of Separation of Believers:** We believe in the separation of born-again believers from worldly things.

**Of the Righteous and the Wicked:** We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God and 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 conscious joy of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

**Of Civil Government:** We believe that the 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 things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth.

**Of the Resurrection:** Personal, Visible, Pre-Millennia Return of Christ and Related Events.

- a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ.
- b. The Ascension.
- c. The High Priesthood.
- d. The pre-tribulation rapture of the Church.
- e. The resurrection of the saved and unsaved.
- f. The change of the living in Christ.
- g. The reward and judgment of believers at the judgment seat of Christ.
- h. The judgment of all unbelievers.
- i. The pre-millennial and visible return of our Lord.
- h. The millennial reign.

**Of Marriage:** We believe that marriage has been ordained by God and that this church defines "marriage" as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman, in which union is a lifetime commitment.

**Of Human Sexuality:** We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Therefore, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to as "porneias" in the New Testament) including but not limited to adultery, premarital sex,

homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church, and incompatible with our biblical witness.