

Our Affirmation of Faith

(A Theological Statement of First Baptist Church of Boulder)

This community of faith called "First Baptist Church of Boulder" has been called by God since 1872 to be Christ's heart, hands, and feet in the Boulder-area community and across the world. In her 137 years, FBC/Boulder has continually sought to make a difference with the message, intentions, and actions of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **We believe in the God of Grace**, knowing that we fall short of worthiness and reward, yet counting upon God's love and grace to lift us up in reconciliation and forgiveness when we have stumbled or fallen. We believe that God is about love and not vengeance; that our God is about compassion, not manipulation; that God is about reconciliation and forgiveness, not punishment; that God's arms are open and welcoming of all, inclusive rather than exclusive.
- **We believe in Jesus of Nazareth**, Son of God, rabbi, healer, prophet, who ministered unto the broken and marginalized, who was and is God's love and grace in flesh and Spirit. Jesus is the Crucified One and the Resurrected Savior, who lives in us and in our world, is the One whom we adore and serve. He is the One who gives us the courage, commitment, and grace to minister in a world of "un-grace".
- **We believe in the Holy Spirit**, the Spirit of the Living God, our comforter, healer and spiritual companion. We believe that the Spirit is the constant presence of God walking with us through the joys and challenges of life. In our deepest sorrows and in our exhilarating joys, God is present as Holy Spirit.
- **We believe in the Bible**, the Hebrew Scriptures, and New Testament, as the inspired Word of God, written by various believers through history. We believe that the Bible is best understood through prayer, reflection, and the best scholarly tools of inquiry which reveal historical context, linguistics, and literary form. We believe that the Scriptures are timeless in relating to the journeys of faith of all believers for all time. We believe that God not only inspires, teaches, comforts, and challenges us in and through the Word, but also the Holy One is present in the lives and works of God's children everywhere in every generation.

- **We believe that the Church** is called by God to be “Christ in the world.” Nothing less. We believe that Christ’s Spirit is with us as a communion of faith encouraging, prodding, hoping that “the Body of Christ” will make a difference in our broken world by being a haven of grace and a bastion of God’s unconditional love for Creation and all God’s children. We believe that the Church has a responsibility to promote the Gospel of Christ in spite of governmental and cultural values to the contrary.
- **We believe that the mission of the Church in the world** is not to coerce or manipulate persons into confession and conversion, but to live out God’s love for all through mission efforts to demonstrate Christ’s compassion and love for all, and to enhance quality of life for all parties by coming alongside (and partnering with) our sisters and brothers across the planet.
- **We believe in the Unity of Spirit.** We count on the Spirit that brings us together to bond us, most of all, as a loving body of Christ. We believe that differences, whether theological or personal, should not divide us. We believe in theological diversity. We do not all believe, think, feel, or respond alike in our walk with Christ and the ways in which we live out our faith. The relationships we cherish with God, with Christ, and with one another are so very important in our spiritual growth and unity.
- **Thus, we believe in the importance of supportive relationships.** While we, as a local church, make our own decisions of church governance and choose our leaders by congregational vote, we strongly support our covenant as an American Baptist church. We are a church deeply rooted in the commitments and traditions of our denomination, the American Baptist Churches USA. We are also grateful for the support and care of our partners, American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountain Region. We value ecumenical relationships with other faith groups and secular support organizations in our community and world who reach out with caring to all God’s children.

(Authored in 2009 by the Rev. Larry VanSpiell, current Church Moderator and long-time member of First Baptist of Boulder)