

# **Constitution and Bylaws and Statement of Faith of the Monroe Bible Church**

Monroe, Wisconsin

May 18, 1983 (last revision approved October 27, 2019)

## **ARTICLE I – GENERAL**

Section 1 – Name: The name of this organization shall be The Monroe Bible Church of Monroe, Wisconsin.

Section 2 – Purpose: The Monroe Bible Church purpose is to develop followers of Jesus Christ.

Section 3 – Affiliation: This church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America through its Forest Lakes District.

Section 4 – Power and Authority:

A. Ordination: It shall be within the power of this church to ordain into the Gospel ministry, those men whom God has called and equipped. It shall have the authority to call ordination councils and issue proper credentials.

B. Ordinances: It shall be within the power of this church to conduct baptisms and observe the Lord's Table.

C. Dedication: It shall be within the power of this church to dedicate children to the Lord at any of the services.

Section 5 – Government: The government of this church is vested in its membership and executed through the Elder Board and the Board of Deacons.

Section 6 – Statement of Faith: We are affiliated with, and hold to, the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Free Church of America. That Statement of Faith is incorporated as an addendum to this Constitution and Bylaws and can be found at <https://www.efca.org/about/what-we-believe>. We further define some of these beliefs for our church in an addendum at the end of the Statement of Faith.

Our statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that our statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith. The Monroe Bible Church Statement of Faith is incorporated as an addendum to the Constitution and Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 – Any person, confessing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and desiring to live a consistent and separated Christian life in accordance with the Statement of Faith and the constitution of this church shall be eligible for membership. A pastor and his wife shall become members upon taking up the duties of the pastorate.

Section 2 – Qualifications for Membership:

- A. Personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Completion of a new members curriculum.
- C. Agreement with the Statement of Faith and Membership Covenant of the church.
- D. Evidence of the new birth.

Section 3 – Process for Membership: Any person desiring membership shall be received only after an interview with the Elder Board, at which time the candidate's qualifications will be reviewed.

Section 4 – It shall be the duty of the Elder Board, when reviewing candidates for membership, to urge all unbaptized persons to consider the Scriptural place of believer's baptism.

Section 5 – Membership Covenant: I have read the Statement of Faith, and the constitution of the Monroe Bible Church. I fully subscribe to them and do solemnly assume the responsibilities of membership in this church. I therefore promise, in dependence upon God who helps our infirmities, to attend its services as faithfully as possible; to sanctify the Lord's Day, to be faithful in private devotions, and to strive in all things to honor my Lord and Savior by a walk and conversation becoming to Christ. I further promise to cheerfully contribute to the financial support of this church and its leadership by the Holy Spirit in all things. If at any time I find myself out of harmony with the beliefs and practices of this church, or if my conduct or doctrinal beliefs shall be called in question by the Elder Board; I agree to submit the difference to their careful consideration and be governed by their decision as to my future relationship to this church.

Section 6 – Upon recommendation of the Elder Board, the church shall receive and welcome the candidate into membership in the presence of the worshipping congregation.

Section 7 – Length of Membership: All members shall remain in good standing and shall retain their voting power as long as they are in active attendance and fellowship with the church. An unexcused absence from the activities of the church for three months shall deprive a person of the right to vote in church matters. Any member absent from the activities of the church for one year shall be placed on the inactive list, and a two years absence shall cancel one's membership, unless otherwise arranged.

Section 8 – It shall be within the authority of the Elder Board to conduct a review of the church whenever they deem it necessary, at which time members who seem to manifest: inconsistency in their Christian life; indifference toward the life and work of the church; a wrong attitude towards its doctrinal position; or flagrant sin, shall be interviewed for the purpose of remedying any weakness in their life. Those interviewing may recommend to the entire Elder Board that the person(s) in question be dropped from the roll of the membership. Such action is to be made public to the church.

Section 9 – Any member may request a letter of recommendation or release from membership. Any letter must be approved by the Elder Board.

### **ARTICLE III – GOVERNMENT**

Section 1 – Method of Government: The government of this church is vested in its membership, and executed through the Elder Board and the Board of Deacons.

Section 2 – Role of the Elder Board: The Elder Board shall be responsible for preaching, teaching, shepherding the church and assign oversight of ministry leaders to an Elder or Deacon. It shall be the executive of the congregation in its dealing with the pastors, employees and all denominations and organizations. The Elder Board shall have authority to make all necessary appointments, and to call congregational meetings. The Elder Board shall perform such other duties as may be defined by this constitution.

Section 3 – Role of the Board of Deacons: The Board of Deacons shall be the executive of the congregation in matters regarding property and finances. It shall hold in trust titles to all property belonging to the church. It shall not encumber with loan, transfer, sell or purchase any real estate for the church except by express authorization conveyed through a two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting at a constitutionally called congregational meeting. The Board of Deacons shall have oversight of assigned ministry leaders and authority to call congregational meetings.

In case of a division of the Church (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), the property of the Church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution and Bylaws.

In case of dissolution of the Church organization, the property shall be assigned to the Forest Lakes District Conference of the Evangelical Free Church of America to enable said Conference to renew the work or use the value thereof for further Gospel enterprises. The Church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the organization or when the Church has not held an annual meeting for three years, or when less than six Members remain.

Section 4 – The Fiscal Year shall begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July. The budget shall be approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.

Section 5 – Congregational Meetings: An Elder of the church or a duly appointed representative shall officiate at all congregational meetings of the church. Order shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order. All business shall be transacted by a majority vote of the congregation present and voting except where otherwise stated. All active members in good standing, 16 years of age or older, may vote. Records shall be kept of each congregational meeting.

Section 6 – Quorum: The members present at any congregational meeting called in accordance with the requirements of this constitution shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7 – Signatories: If the membership of the church authorizes the Board of Deacons to encumber with loan, transfer, sell, or purchase any real estate in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3, then the chairman of the Board of Deacons and the clerk are authorized to execute and deliver all necessary legal documents on behalf of Monroe Bible Church, Inc.

## **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

Section 1 – To be an officer in the Monroe Bible Church, one must be an active member of the church in good standing and in full agreement with the doctrinal position of this church.

Section 2 – The officers of the Monroe Bible Church and their duties shall be:

A. The Elders: The Elders shall preach and teach the Gospel faithfully; administer the ordinances of Baptism and The Lord's Table; and watch over the spiritual health of the church. They shall be expected to visit the sick and the sorrowing of the membership; investigate delinquents; and endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of its members.

1. The Elder Board shall be composed of those men called by God, recommended by the Elders after evaluation according to Scriptural standards, evaluated by the congregation as to character and conduct, affirmed by the congregation, and appointed by the Elders.
2. The Elder's length of office is indefinite, but is subject to annual reaffirmation and recommitment. Inactive Elders will not complete the annual reaffirmation and recommitment.

B. Pastors: Pastors may or may not be elders depending on their gifting and calling. The lead pastor is expected to give leadership to the Elder Board but not rule it. Pastors' duties will vary according to their job descriptions. A Pastor may be called upon a 2/3 majority vote of the voting congregation after recommendation by the Elder Board.

- C. Deacons: They shall have care of the physical properties and finances of the church.
1. The Board of Deacons, including the treasurer and clerk, shall be composed of those men called by God, recommended by the Elders after evaluation according to Scriptural standards, evaluated by the congregation as to character and conduct, affirmed by the congregation and appointed by the Elders.
  2. The Deacon's length of office shall be one year with reaffirmation every year.
  3. There shall be at least 3 Deacons.
  4. They shall provide assistance as requested by the Elders.

D. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be a Deacon and have charge of all moneys connected with the church. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all moneys received and disbursed, and shall present a ministry by ministry financial statement at each annual meeting. All church officers shall have access to the books at any time. The Treasurer may serve no more than three consecutive years.

E. Clerk: The Clerk shall be a Deacon and keep accurate records of all Board of Deacons and congregational meetings, keep a membership record, and issue letters of dismissal or recommendation as directed by the Elder Board.

F. Chairs of Boards:

1. Elders may choose a chair as needed.
2. Board of Deacons shall elect a chair annually after the annual meeting of the church.

Section 3 – Any concern regarding the character or conduct of an Officer shall be investigated by a pastor and other Elders. If found deficient the Officer will be excused from service.

## **ARTICLE V – FINANCES**

Section 1 – Believing that the Bible teaches that the proper method of financing the Lord's work is by the free-will offerings of consecrated hearts, in systematic, proportionate giving of money (tithing), this church will not raise money for the general fund through the collection of money through bazaars, entertainment, or any like method. Free-will offerings will be accepted at any time.

Section 2 – If money is raised by Youth Groups, AWANA, or similar church-related organizations through fund-raising methods, door-to-door solicitation is prohibited.

Section 3 – All designated and undesignated gifts contributed to the church will be directed by the Board of Deacons and its agents.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEETING**

Section 1 - Sunday morning services shall be considered the regular meeting of the Church. The Lord's Table, Baptism and the Dedication of Children shall be observed regularly throughout the year.

Section 2 – An Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held the fourth Sunday in July. At that time, written reports shall be submitted by officers and ministry leaders covering the activities for the past year.

Section 3 – A Special Congregational Meeting may be called by the Elder Board, the Board of Deacons, or at the written request of 10% of the membership. Notice of such a meeting and its purpose shall be given at a regular service at least 24 hours before the meeting.

## **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting or at any Special Meeting regularly called for that purpose. The proposed amendment must be submitted in writing not less than thirty days before said meeting, and shall be announced in at least two regular Church Meetings. A two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting shall be required on all amendments.

**EFCA Statement of Faith**  
**Adopted by the Conference on June 19, 2019**

*The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:*

*God*

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

*The Bible*

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

*The Human Condition*

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

*Jesus Christ*

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

*The Work of Christ*

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

*The Holy  
Spirit*

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

*The Church*

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

*Christian Living*

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

*Christ's Return*

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

*Response and Eternal  
Destiny*

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

## **Addendum to the STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **ARTICLE 1. - The Scriptures**

We believe that all of the Bible as originally written was verbally inspired, the product of Spirit-controlled men, and is absolute truth without any error. We further believe that those sixty six books of the Old and New Testament comprise the only infallible and authoritative rule for faith and practice in the Christian life. Matthew 5:17, 18; II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21

### **ARTICLE 2. - The True God**

We believe that there is only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, Who is the Creator and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth. We also believe that He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, submission, and love. We further believe that in the unity of the Godhead there exist three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and each carry out distinct but harmonious functions in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2, 3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 3:21, 22; I Corinthians 8:6; II Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 4:11

#### **Section 1. - God The Father**

We believe in God The Father, initiator of all things both visible and invisible, Who is true holiness, eternal power, infinite love, perfect justice, absolute truth, the Alpha and Omega, and the great "I AM." Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; Leviticus 22:33; Romans 1:20; 3:26; Titus 1:2; I John 4:8, 9; Revelation 1:8

#### **Section 2. - God The Son**

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that He is the eternal Son of God. We also believe that He was supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit and that He is thus both true God and true man. Matthew 1:22, 23; Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished eternal redemption for man through His death on the cross as a sinless, representative, substitutionary sacrifice. We also believe that the believer's justification before God is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Matthew 27:27-50, Romans 4:25; I Corinthians 15:12-21; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 1:18, 19; 2:24

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven where He is now exalted to the right hand of God as the believer's High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate. We also believe that He will return one day to receive all believers living and dead unto Himself to be with Him forever. John 14:2, 3; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 4:14, 15; 7:25; I John 2:1.

#### **Section 3. - God The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with God the

Father and God the Son, of the same nature, and that He was active in creation.

We also believe that in His ministry in the unbelieving world He restrains Satan until God's purposes are fulfilled and that He convicts the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment to come. We further believe that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel through the testimony of believers. We moreover believe that He is the Agent of the new birth and that He seals, baptizes, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, fills, and helps the believer. We also believe that He indwells every true child of God. Genesis 1:1, 2; Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5; 14:16, 17, 26; 16:8-11; Acts 11:16; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27; II Thessalonians 2:7; Hebrews 9:14

We believe that the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to believers to enable them to serve Him effectively in the local body, the church, and that He is sovereign in His distribution of those gifts. However, we do not teach that the spiritual gift of tongues is either a means to the filling of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life nor a common or necessary sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 4:8, 31; I Corinthians 12:1-31

#### ARTICLE 3. - Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, that he was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and the desire to be like God he fell and drew after him a host of other angels. We also believe that he is now the malicious prince of the power of the air, the unholy god of this world. Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; II Corinthians 4:3, 4; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:7-9

We believe Satan to be man's great tempter, the arch-enemy of God and Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power and instigator behind the present apostasy, the lord of the Anti-Christ, and the head of all the powers of darkness. We also believe, however, he is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of eternal punishment in hell, the very place prepared for him and his angels. Matthew 25:41; Mark 13:21, 22; Luke 22:3, 4; II Corinthians 11:13-15; II Thessalonians 2:3-11; II Peter 2:4; I John 2:22; 4:3; II John 7; Jude 6; Revelation 19:11, 16, 20; 20:1-3, 10

#### ARTICLE 4. - The Fall Of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence and in the likeness of God. We also believe that by willful sin he fell from that privileged estate, lost spiritual life, became dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of Satan. We also believe that as a result all mankind is under just condemnation by God, without defense or excuse. We further believe that apart from the life-giving grace of the Holy Spirit, humanity remains in a condition of total depravity, that is, controlled by evil impulses and completely out of contact with God. Genesis 1:26; 2:17; 6:5; Psalm 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-19; 5:12; 8:6, 7; Ephesians 2:1-10; I Timothy 5:6; I John 3:8

#### ARTICLE 5. - Salvation

We believe that God Who is rich in mercy, sent His only Son to be the Savior of all who would repent and believe in Him. We also believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of all mankind as their substitute. We further believe that all who trust in Christ are justified on the ground of His shed blood and thus are eternally saved because of His perfect and finished work on the cross. John 1:12; 5:24; 10:28; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:16, 17; 3:22-26

We believe that the new birth of the believer comes only through personal faith in Jesus Christ, and that included in that saving faith is repentance of sin. We also believe that no other conditions are necessary for salvation. We further believe that the one who has been truly born again has the regenerating, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, assuring him that he shall be kept by God forever. John 3:16, 18, 36; 6:29; Acts 16:31; 20:21; Romans 4:5; 10:4; I Corinthians 6:19; II Corinthians 7:10; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; II Peter 3:9

#### ARTICLE 6. - The Church

We believe that the term "church" as it is used in the Bible has two different meanings depending upon its context: one refers to all believers of the church age and the other refers to local bodies of believers. We also believe that since most of the New Testament epistles are addressed to these local bodies of believers, that should be our main emphasis as well. Matthew 16:18; Acts 14:27; I Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 10:24, 25

We believe that Jesus Christ, being Head of the Church which is His Body, is head over every local church as well. We also believe that the best definition of a New Testament church is a congregation of immersed believers associated together for worship, ministry, fellowship, and growth, and who regularly observe the Lord's Table. We further believe that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, that the local church has the sovereign right to cooperate freely in spiritual endeavors with other individuals or organizations as it determines appropriate. We also believe that in matters of membership, organization, government, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41, 42; 20:17, 28; Romans 15:26; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22; 5:23, 24; Colossians 1:18; Titus 1:5

We believe that God has called biblical leadership from within the membership to direct the church in conducting its affairs and to instruct, protect, equip, and admonish the members. We also believe that the lives of those leaders are to be a testimony and an example of a true walk with God. We further believe that they will one day give an account to God for their leadership ministry, and that thus the local church is responsible before God to pray for, honor, and support the leadership which God has given to them. Ephesians 4:11-13; I Thessalonians 5:12, 13; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:7, 17; I Peter 5:1-4

#### ARTICLE 7. - Baptism And The Lord's Table

We believe in practicing the observance of baptism and the Lord's Table in obedience to the commands of Christ. We also believe that biblical baptism is the immersion of a believer in water as the outward expression of personal salvation and union with Christ. We further believe that the Lord's Table is symbolic of the body and blood of the Lord poured out at Calvary, is a vivid reminder to be partaken of only by believers, should always be preceded by solemn self-examination, and should be practiced on a regular basis. Matthew 3:16; 28:18-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41, 42; 8:35-39; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:17-34; Colossians 2:12

#### ARTICLE 8. - The Resurrection And The Eternal State

We believe that at death those who have personally trusted in the Lord Jesus for salvation pass immediately into His presence and remain there in a state of conscious blessedness. We also believe that when the Lord Jesus comes for His own, their mortal bodies shall be resurrected as glorified ones, shall be re-united with their souls, and shall be associated with Him forever in glory. We further believe that at death all unbelievers remain conscious of their condemnation

and are in misery until the judgment of the Great White Throne at the end of the Millennium. We consequently believe that at that point their souls and bodies shall be re-united to be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. Exodus 34:7; Proverbs 14:32; Malachi 3:16-18; Matthew 25:31-41; Luke 16:19-26; 23:42; John 8:21; Romans 6:23; I Corinthians 15:1-58; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15.

## ARTICLE 9. - The Return Of Christ

We believe in the bodily, personal, pre-millennial, imminent return of Jesus Christ. We also believe that He will return before the Tribulation Period to catch away His Church, meeting them in the air. We further believe that He will come with His Church at the close of the Tribulation Period to judge the nations and to set up His Millennial kingdom upon the earth. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-15.

## ARTICLE 10. – Other Matters of Faith and Conduct

### Section 1. - Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God and, as such, one's biological sex is not to be rejected. Gen. 1:26-27

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive, lifelong union that is generative in nature, as delineated in Scripture. Gen. 2:18-25; Eph. 5:22-33 We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a biological man and a biological woman who are married to each other. 1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4 We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is contrary to Biblical teaching. Lev. 19:6-23; Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who seek His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 2:1-5; Titus 2:11-14

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual or group are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Monroe Bible Church (MBC). Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31-36

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of MBC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the MBC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by or who represent MBC in any capacity, agree and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. Matt. 5:16; Philip. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22

### Section 2 – Sanctity of Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Gen 1&2 Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception to natural death. Ps 139 We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.