

## **Statement of Faith and Principles**

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Adopted March 5, 2006

The King's Grant Baptist Church is a united, harmonious fellowship of compassionate, servant-oriented and mission-minded believers who strive to follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

The Church is a prayerful body of believers working to be more evangelistic and open to change and transition in answering God's call to service. Each year a large number of the congregations are involved in local, state-wide and international missions.

The congregation supports its Church leadership and Church ministry initiatives. In connection with governance and administration, the congregation nominates and elects its committees, then respects and supports their efforts, resolving issues in a spirit of Christian harmony.

The Church welcomes men and women in leadership roles including Deacon and Staff positions.

The Church is ecumenical, cooperating with other churches to serve the community.

The Church supports the traditional Baptist principles of-

- Religious liberty: We stand for a free church in a free state. Neither one should control the affairs of the other. We support the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, with its "establishment" and "free exercise" clauses.
- Autonomy of the local church: We affirm the autonomy of the local church. Each church is free to determine its own membership and to set its own course under the headship of Jesus. It may enter into alliance with other churches as it chooses, so long as those other churches are willing.
- The priesthood of the believer: We affirm the priesthood of all believers. Laypersons have the same right as ordained ministers to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and minister in Christ's name.
- Soul competency: We affirm soul competency, the accountability of each person before God. Family cannot save you, neither can the church. It comes down to you and God. Authorities can't force belief or unbelief.

Believing the Bible to be the sole authority for faith and practice, the Church rejects any attempts by external organizations to establish and enforce creedal statements for local churches or for missionaries.

The Church endorses the **Baptist Faith and Message of 1963** as a non-creedal confession of faith in our religious and denominational life.