##### ABCOTSAMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH

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**Baptist Beliefs**

* ***Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord***. Baptists are a redeemed people, who claim a personal relationship to God through his Son, Jesus Christ. We believe it is our mission to share the gospel of Christ – a gospel of love and forgiveness – with the whole world.
* ***The Bible is God’s Inspired Word***. Baptists believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired record of God’s actions in history, and believe it is a trustworthy, authoritative, and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.
* ***Two Ordinances***. Baptists observe two ordinances: believer’s baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We regard baptism by immersion as a symbol of death to the old life and resurrection to a new life in Christ. We celebrate holy communion in memory of the sufferings of Christ on our behalf – to show forth his death until his coming again.
* ***Congregational government***. Baptists emphasize that the local congregation is the basic manifestation of the church. We believe Christ is the head of each congregation, and that all members should participate in the governing of its affairs.
* ***Independence and Interdependence***. Baptist churches are autonomous in their local affairs, but they also recognize their interdependence. Therefore, we join freely with other churches and church groups for fellowship and for many forms of missionary and social service which cannot be carried on as effectively by any church acting alone.
* ***Religious freedom***. Baptists believe that in the interest of civil and religious liberty, the church and state should be separate, so that neither is under the control of the other.
* ***Passion for peace and justice***. Baptists are a “good news people” who care for persons. We believe the gospel calls for social action and witness as well as individual salvation. We try to follow God’s will in pursuing those things which make for peace and call for justice.
* ***A missionary and evangelical people***. Baptist have traditionally been a people with a mission. Impelled by a persistent impulse to evangelize, we continue to participate in and support home and foreign missions through our Boards of Educational Ministries, National Ministries, and International Ministries, and through regional organizations.
* ***A people of prayer***. Baptists trust the Holy Spirit for insight and power to live a life dedicated to doing God’s will. Prayer has a central place in our life and ministry