

# New Connections

A CLASS FOR THE CURIOUS

This class is designed to introduce you to the *Beliefs* and *Life* of **North Park Baptist Church**

**Week 2:**

## OUR FRAMEWORK

UNDERSTANDING THE STRUCTURE OF NPBC

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE WE BEGIN . . .

- (1) What are some of the regular rites and traditions you are used to doing in your past church experiences? (ie: communion, baptism, feet washing, reciting creeds, confession)
- (2) What kind of church structures & governments are you familiar with? And how important is leadership to the health of a church?

### Ordinances:

These are the specific practices (*outward rites*) that we believe Christ decreed for a local community of believers, “the church.” We do not believe that these practices have any ability to add merit and grace to a person’s position before God (*sacraments*); but rather, they are clear demonstrations that a person has accepted Christ Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

#### 1. *Baptism*

- We Believe the act of baptism symbolizes a believers ‘identification’ with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It displays our death to sin and resurrection into a new life with him.  
(John 5:25; Romans 6:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 John 3:14)
- We Believe baptism is a significant act of obedience for those who are capable of understanding and accepting its meaning.  
(Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-42)
- We Believe that baptism’s proper form is public immersion in water; and this act precedes the privileges of church membership.  
(Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:26-29)
- We Believe that baptism does not save. (John 3:16; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9)

#### 2. *The Lord’s Supper (communion)*

- We Believe that communion is a memorial that was initiated by our Lord, and is to be a regular part of our worship community.  
(Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

- We Believe that communion is a picture of Christ's atoning sacrifice on our behalf, and it is to be observed with sobriety and gratitude. (1 Corinthians 11:28-29; Hebrews 12:28-29)
- We Believe that communion is open to all true believers, and it represents our unity with the kingdom of saints from the past, present and future. (Matthew 26:26-29)

**Government:**

**1. Headship of Christ**

- We Believe the local body of Christ is to function underneath his leadership to carry out his purposes for his glory alone. (Colossians 1:18; Romans 11: 36)

**2. Congregational in Structure**

Article I, Section B, Number 3:

"Government shall be vested in the members who shall elect their officers to administer their affairs."

- The local body votes on a yearly budget and other large scale financial expenditures. (2 Corinthians 8:2-6, 18-19; 2 Corinthians 9:12-15)
- The local body determines the missionaries to send to the field and their support levels. (Acts 13:1-3; Acts 15:25)
- The local body determines the officers to carry out leadership of the church. (Acts 6:2-3; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

**3. Elected Officers**

- We Believe that God gives gifted men authority as pastors to oversee the local body of believers. (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-11)
- We Believe that the church chooses wise & respectable deacons to assist pastors in oversight and service. (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

**Flowchart of Responsibility & Oversight:**

