

MONETA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WHAT WE TEACH

A Comprehensive Outline
Of the Beliefs and Teachings
Of the Leadership of
Moneta Community Church,

Moneta, Virginia
Revised November, 2007

I. INTRODUCTION

The following is a comprehensive overview of our teachings of the leadership of Moneta Community Church and the Scriptural evidence behind them. We are hesitant to accept a denominational label and would much rather be labeled as "followers of Christ and His Word"; However, we also understand the importance of outlining the Biblical stance of a church, especially if choosing a non-denominational model. It is our prayer that this outline will clarify the details of our understanding of Scripture and answer many questions which you may have.

Note: This is NOT a list of what believers must agree with in order to join our fellowship. This is simply an overview of the teachings which can be expected from our assembly. For a list of the basic tenants which must be accepted to join our fellowship, please refer to the Statement of Faith contained in the MCC Bylaws.

II. DOCTRINE OF GOD

A. God is a Triune Godhead

1. *Made up of three Persons* – Luke 3:22; Rom. 1:20; Gen. 1:26; 3:23
2. *Consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – yet One Nature (God)* – Jn. 10:30,38; I Pet. 1:11; Matt. 1:19; 10:20

B. Scripture is the Word of God – Jn. 17:17; Lu. 11:28; Heb. 4:12

1. Its authenticity was *affirmed by Christ* (The Son of God) – Dt. 8:3; Mt. 4:4
2. *Is perfect (Inerrant, Infallible) in its original form* – Ps. 19:7; II Tim. 3:16-17

C. The world and all earthly life was created by God – Col. 1:16; Ex. 20:9-11

D. Created mankind for His glory – Is. 43:6-7; I Cor. 10:31

E. Recommended Reading: (1) Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Major Bible Themes: 52 Vital Doctrines of the Scripture Simplified and Explained*. Grand Rapids: Academie, 1974. (2) Feinberg, John S. *No One Like Him*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2006.

III. DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

A. His Deity – He is the Lord God, Yahweh – Jn. 1:3; 5:18; Rom. 10:9-13; I Cor. 15:28

B. Both fully God and fully man – Phil. 2:7; Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:23

C. Virgin Birth – God sent His Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin – Luke 2:27, 31-32

D. Incarnation – Jn. 1:14; Lu. 2:7; I Jn. 4:2

E. Sinless – Jn. 8:46; II Cor. 5:21

F. Suffering – Christ – Mt. 27:35-50; Mk. 15:24-37; Lu. 23:33-46

G. Death – Jesus died by Roman crucifixion – Mt. 27:51-58; Mk. 15:38-45; Heb. 9:14, 26

H. Burial – Mt. 27:59-60; Mk. 15:46; Lu. 23:53-54

I. Resurrection – He rose again on the third day – Mt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1; Lu. 24:45-46, 51; I Cor. 15:16; Acts 1:9

J. Return – Christ promised to return again to set up His kingdom – Acts 1:9,11; I Thess. 4:16; Dan. 7:13; Jn. 14:3

K. Recommended Reading: (1) Walvoord, John F. *Jesus Christ Our Lord*. Chicago: Moody, 1969. (2) Boyd, Gregory A. and Paul R. Eddy. *Across the Spectrum*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

IV. DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

A. Effects of Adam's Sin

1. *Condemned humanity* – Rom 5:8, 12
2. *Brought spiritual death* – I Cor. 15:22

B. Man's Depravity

1. *Does not seek God* – Rom. 3:10-12
2. *Blind to the Gospel* – II Cor. 4:3-4
3. *Slaves to sin* – Rom. 6:6, 17; Tit. 3:3
4. *Dead in sin* – Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 2:13
5. *Enemy of God* – Rom. 3:7

C. Rightful Punishment for Sin – Because of the sinfulness of humanity, all should rightfully receive eternal judgment (Hell) – Mt. 13:49-50; Rev 20:14-15; Mk. 9:43-48

D. The Harmony of Election and Free Will in Salvation – While these seem like two opposing and competing ideas, it is our understanding that both are taught on the pages of Scripture. Debate and division over this topic has filled many centuries of church history. We do not believe that this should be an issue of division and teach that God's choosing and man's choosing are not opposing forces, but instead both wills are exercised in complete harmony.

1. *Election*

- a. God chooses to save some – Rom. 8:28; 9:11; Acts 11:18; 14:27; Jn 6:37; Eph. 1:4, 9, 11; Mt. 11:25-27; II Thess. 2:13; Mt. 20:15-16
- b. God enables those whom He has chosen – Eph. 1:9, 13; Jn. 6:44; Acts 13:48; Acts 16:14; II Cor. 4:6

2. *Free Will*

- a. Man freely chooses to reject God – Rom. 3:12; Eph. 1:9; II Cor. 4:3-4
- b. Must believe in order to receive salvation – Jn. 3:15-18; 6:47; Acts 13:34; II Cor. 4:13; Rom. 3:21-22; 10:9-10, 14-15

- c. Man is held accountable for unbelief – Mt. 13:58; Rom. 11:20-23; Heb. 3:19; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 21:8

E. Christ's Work

1. Because of the *redemptive work of Jesus*, man can receive Eternal Life in Heaven, despite a fallen nature– Phil. 3:20; Jn. 3:16; Mk. 10:30
2. *Justifies the ungodly* – Rom. 5:10; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13
3. *Extends a call to the world* – Mt. 11:28; Is. 45:22

F. Need to Hear – Eternal Life (Salvation) can only be obtained after hearing the Gospel. However, hearing the Gospel message does not give anyone Eternal Life. Faith (belief in Christ) must follow the hearing – Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 3:26

G. Content of the Gospel – The Gospel must include:

1. *That Jesus Christ is truly God (Deity)* – I Cor. 12:3; Jn. 10:25-30; Is. 9:6-7
2. *His death on the cross is an atonement (payment) for our sins* – Rom. 6:5-10; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Acts 2:28
3. *That He was buried and raised from death (resurrected)* – Rom. 14:9; I Cor. 6:14

H. The Elements of Salvation

1. *God's Work*
 - a. Foreknowledge – Jer. 1:5; Rom. 8:29; I Pet. 1:2
 - b. Predestination – Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:13; Acts 13:48
 - c. Enablement
 - i. Calling – II Thess. 2:13-14; I Pet. 1:15; II Tim. 1:9; Lu. 14:23; Rom. 1:7; 11:29; I Cor. 1:23-24, 26; Eph. 1:18; Phil. 3:14 I Thess. 2:12; Heb. 3:1; II Pet. 1:10
 - ii. Drawing – Jer. 31:3; Hos. 11:4; Jn. 6:44, 65; 12:32
 - iii. Illumination – Acts 16:14; II Cor. 4:6
 - d. Regeneration (New Birth) – Dt. 30:6; Jer. 24:7; Ez. 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Jn. 5:1; 6:29; I Jn. 2:24; 3:3, 9; 4:2-3; 4:7
 - e. Justification – Acts 15:59; Rom. 8:28-31; I Pet. 1:15; I Pet. 2:9-10
 - f. Sanctification – I Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10; 13:12
 - g. Glorification – Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 5:27; II Tim. 2:10
2. *Man's Work*
 - a. Must hear the gospel (involves preacher and listener) – Rom. 10:14; Acts 15:7; Jn. 17:20
 - b. Must exhibit the elements of faith
 - i. Belief in Christ – Jn. 3:16; 11:25; 20:31

- ii. Repentance from sin – Acts 2:38; 3:19; Mk. 1:4
- iii. Faith in Him – Rom. 10:17; 3:28; 4:4-5: 5:1; Eph. 2:8
- iv. Receive Christ – Jn. 1:12
- v. Humble himself – Mt. 18:3
- vi. Confess Christ – Rom. 10:10
- vii. Obey Him – Heb. 5:9; Jn. 3:36
- viii. Love Him – Mt. 10:37; I Cor. 16:22; Lu. 14:33
- ix. Delight in Him – Rom. 15:13; Heb. 11:16; Jn. 3:18-20
- x. Perseverance – Heb. 11:1-12:3

I. Perseverance/Eternal Security – Rom. 8:32-39; Mt. 10:22; Heb. 11:1-12:3

J. Recommended Reading: (1) Thiessen, Henry. *Lectures in Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. (2) Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

V. DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Deity – II Pet. 1:21; Acts 7:51

1. *Can be sinned against* – Mt. 12:31
2. *Inspired Scripture* – Ez. 2:2; II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:21; Acts 1:16
3. *Created the world* – Gen. 1:2; Job. 26:13

B. Personhood

1. *Creates* – Job 33:4
2. *Has a Will* – I Cor. 2:11
3. *Can be:*
 - a. Grieved – Eph. 4:30; Is. 63:10
 - b. Resisted – Acts 7:51
 - c. Tempted – Acts 5:9
 - d. Lied to – Acts 5:3

C. Works

1. *Directs* – Acts 8:29; 10:19-20; 16:6-7; Jn. 16:13
2. *Instructs/Teaches* – I Cor. 2:13; 12:3; Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 16:13-14
3. *Comforts* – Acts 9:31; Jn. 16:7
4. *Sanctifies* – Rom. 15:16; I Cor. 6:11
5. *Enables* – Ex. 31:3-5; Zech. 4:6; Gal. 5

6. *Convicts* – Jn. 16:8-11
7. *Regenerates* – Jn. 3:3, 5-6, 8
8. *Empowers* – Jn. 14:12; Acts 1:8
9. *Illumines* – Jn. 15:26
10. *Sanctifies* – Rom. 8:2; Gal. 5
11. *Intercedes* – Rom. 8:26-27
12. *Indwells believers* – Rom. 8:9-11; Jn. 14:17; I Cor. 14:25; 3:16; 6:19

D. Spiritual Gifts

1. We hold that at the founding of the church, God used an *outpouring of certain gifts for two purposes...*
 - a. To authenticate His message—the inclusion of the Gentiles into His chosen people for protection of His Word and discipleship of the world—through His messengers.
 - b. To give a visible illustration of the baptism of all believers into the Body of Christ, the Church.
2. These gifts were *possessed by individuals* through the enablement of the Holy Spirit. We teach that these gifts are no longer possessed by individuals, but also that the God who performed these acts is the same God as today. God still does miraculous works today, but according to His sovereign will.
 - a. Miracles (exorcism and healings) – I Cor. 12:10, 28-29
 - b. Healing (of believers) – I Cor. 12:9, 28, 30; Acts 5:15-16; Jam. 5:14-15
 - c. Discernment of Spirits (In regard to new revelation) – I Cor. 14:29
3. We also teach that *two offices/positions have ceased* since the 1st century church. While the offices are no longer present, the gifts are and will be discussed in the following section.
 - a. Apostleship (Preach to the world) – I Cor. 1:7; 12:28; Eph. 2:20
 - b. Prophets (Preach to the church) – I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 2:20; Acts 13:1-3; 11:28; 21:10-11
4. *Spiritual Gifts*
 - a. Helpers/Service – I Cor. 12:28; Acts 20:35; Acts 6:1-6
 - b. Administration – I Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:8; Gen. 41:38; Dt. 34:9
 - c. Faith – I Cor. 12:9; Mt. 1:19-20
 - d. Apostleship (Not as an office and not receiving new revelation, but preaching to and being sent into the world) -- I Cor. 1:7; 12:28; Eph. 2:20

- e. Prophets (Not as an office and not receiving new revelation, but edify, exhort, consol, and instruct the church) (embodied in the role and qualifications of elders) – I Cor. 14; I Tim. 3; Tit. 1
- f. Teaching (systematic/whole counsel of God) – I Cor. 12:28-29; Rom. 12:7; II Tim. 2:2; Pastor/Teacher – Eph. 4:11 (embodied in role/qualifications of elders and linked by Paul in Eph. 4:11)
- g. Exhortation – I Cor. 12:8
- h. Wisdom (explaining the deep things of God) – I Cor. 12:8
- i. Knowledge (insight) – I Cor. 12:8
- j. Tongues – I Cor. 12:10, 28 (with caution)
- k. Interpretation of Tongues – I Cor. 12:10, 30 (with caution)
- l. Evangelist (preacher of the gospel) – II Tim. 4:5; Acts 21:8
- m. Service – Rom. 12:7; II Cor. 5:18; I Pet. 4:11 (also embodied in deacon – I Tim. 1:12)
- n. Contributing (willing giving to needs) – Rom. 12:8
- o. Mercy (merciful acts) – Rom. 12:8
- p. Giving Aid – Rom. 12:8

E. Recommended Reading: (1) Walvoord, John F. *The Holy Spirit: A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991. (2) Pentecost, Dwight D. *The Divine Comforter: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1998.

VI. DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

A. Nature:

1. *Bride of Christ* – II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32
2. *Consists of believers* – Eph. 2:11-3:6
3. *Distinct from Israel* – I Cor. 10:32
4. *Purpose* – To glorify God – Eph. 3:21

B. Governance:

1. *Christ is the head* – Eph. 1:22; 4:15; Col. 1:18
2. *Elders/Pastors* – Spiritual leadership of the church – I Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9; I Pet. 5:1-5
3. *Deacons* – Assistants/Service – I Tim. 3:8-10, 12; I Tim. 1:12

C. Ordinances

1. *Baptism* – Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:36-39
2. *Lord's Supper* – I Cor. 11: 23-26; 10:16; Mk. 14:22-25

D. Unity

1. *One body, many members* – I Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23
2. *Under Christ* – Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18

E. Recommended Reading: (1) MacArthur, John F., Jr. *The Master's Plan for the Church*. Chicago: Moody, 1991. (2) Strauch, Alexander. *Biblical Eldership*. Colorado: Lewis & Roth, 1995.

VII. DOCTRINE OF ESCHATOLOGY

A. Second Coming – Christ will return again to establish His Kingdom. While the timing is not certain, it is clear that this will precede the outpouring of God's wrath – Matt. 24:30; 25:31; Mk. 14:62; Lu. 21:27; Jn. 14:3; Acts 3:19-21; I Thess. 4:15-16; II Thess. 1:7, 10; Tit. 2:13

B. Tribulation – Time of hardship & Judgment – Jer. 30:7; Dan 9:27; 12:1; Rev. 8-11, 16

C. Millennium

1. *1,000 year period* – Rev. 20:1-7
2. *Fulfillment of prophecy for Israel* – Is. 65:17-25; Ex. 37:21-28
3. *Time of Peace in which Christ reigns* – Is. 11: 65:17-25; Ez. 36:33-38

D. Judgments

1. *Judgment Seat of Christ (believers)* – II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10
 - a. Not for judgment of sin – Heb. 10:17
 - b. Judging works for reward – II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:12-15; 4:5
 - i. Incorruptible crown – I Cor. 9:25
 - ii. Crown of righteousness – II Tim. 4:8
 - iii. Crown of life – Rev. 2:10
 - iv. Crown of glory – I Pet. 5:4
 - v. Crown of rejoicing – I Thess. 2:19
2. *Tribulation* – Is. 13:9; 24:19-20; Rev. 7:1-17; Dan. 12:5-7; 9:24-27
 - a. Seal Judgments – Rev. 6
 - b. Trumpet Judgments – Rev. 8-9
 - c. Bowl Judgments – Rev. 15:1-8; 16
3. *Of the nations (at second coming)* – Ps. 9:19; Joel 3:1-3; Mt. 25:31-40
4. *Great White Throne (close of Millennium)* – Mt. 11:24; 25:31-33 Jn. 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:5, 16; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15
5. *Judgment of the angels* – I Cor. 6:3

E. Eternal States

1. *Eternal Life* – Jn. 3:14-16; Lu. 18:30; Jn. 3:16; Rev. 22:4
2. *Eternal Punishment* – Mt. 25:46; 18:18; Rev. 20:10, 14

F. Heaven and Hell (both are literal places)

1. *Heaven* – Rev. 21:4; 22:4
 - a. New Jerusalem (its focus) – Rev. 21:9-22:5; Is. 65:17
 - b. Recreated by God – Is. 65:17-19
 - c. Will remain forever – 66:22
 - d. Place of bliss – Rev. 21:3-7
 - e. No death – I Cor. 15:26
2. *Hell*
 - a. Eternal – Rev. 20:10; II Thess. 1:9; Is. 14:11; 66:24; Mk. 9:44, 46, 48
 - b. Place of torment – Rev. 20:10; Lu. 16:23, 28; Rom. 1:18
 - c. Fire and brimstone – Rev. 20:10; Lu. 16:24; Mk. 9:43-49; Mt. 13:42
 - d. Weeping and gnashing of teeth – Mt. 8:12; 13:42, 50; Lu. 13:28
 - e. Place of destruction – II Thess. 1:8-9

G. Resurrection

1. *Believer's (Glorification of the body)* – I Thess. 4:16; Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:29; Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 15; Rev. 20:6, 13
2. *Unbeliever's (Raised for "death")* – Rev. 20:13; Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:29

H. Glorification

1. *Of the body (at the final resurrection)* – Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 15
2. *Of the inner man (final sanctification)* – Eph. 5:27; II Tim. 2:10

- I. Recommended Reading:** (1) Sproul, R.C. *The Last Days According to Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. (2) LaHaye, Tim and Ed Hindson, ed. *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*. Eugene: Harvest House, 2004.