

***Registration
to
Solemnize Marriages***

February 2010

Clergy Registration

(Adopted: MBA Annual General Session • October 13, 2007)

The Vital Statistic Agency of the Government of Manitoba requires that all clergy solemnizing marriages in the Province of Manitoba be registered. It is the responsibility of each Member Church to determine who is permitted to solemnize marriages on their behalf. This also applies to individuals not residing in the Province seeking a temporary registration to solemnize a marriage in a Member Church. The procedure for registration (permanent or temporary) of clergy is as follows:

1. The Member Church approves who is permitted to solemnize marriages on their behalf.
2. The individual seeking registration must complete the Clergy Registration Application indicating agreement with the Manitoba Baptist Association Beliefs and Practices regarding marriage.
3. The Member Church shall contact the Manitoba Baptist Association liaison (appointed by the MBA Executive) for completion of all documentation required for each registration. All direct contact with the Vital Statistics Agency regarding registration must be made through the liaison.
4. The Certificate of Registration will be mailed to the approved candidate(s).
5. Permanent Certificates of Registration shall be returned to the Vital Statistics Agency through the Association Liaison when the clergy member moves out of the Province or is no longer approved by the Member Church to solemnize marriages.

Statement of Faith

*Source: North American Baptist Conference Statement of Faith adopted: MBA Annual General Session • April 20, 1996.
Marriage & Family amendment adopted: MBA Annual General Session • October 13, 2007*

In continuity with our immediate forefathers and the larger fellowship of Baptists throughout our history, we seek to practice and propagate by God's grace the following convictions:

1. The Bible

We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity (II Timothy 3:16). It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error-the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct (1 Peter 1:23-25; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17.) It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity (John 20:31, I John 5:9-12; Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2).

2. God

We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy and love (I Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4). He exists eternally in three coequal persons who act together in creation, providence and redemption (Genesis 1:26; I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3).

a. The Father reigns with providential care over all life and history in the created universe; He hears and answers prayer (1 Chronicles 29; 11- 13; Matthew 7:11). He initiated salvation by sending His Son, and He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Savior (I John 4:9-10; John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31).

b. The Son became man, Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18). Being fully God and fully man, He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles and teaching (John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23-24). He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection (I Corinthians 15:3-4; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25). He ascended into heaven where He rules overall creation (Philippians 2:5-11). He intercedes for all believers and dwells in them as their ever-present Lord (Romans 8:24; John 14:23).

c. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:21). Through this Word, he convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of their righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Savior, and bears witness to their new birth (James 1:18; John 16:7-11; I Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16). At regeneration and conversion, the believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13). The Spirit indwells, seals and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; I Peter 4:10). He empowers, guides, teaches, fills, sanctifies and produces the fruit of Christ-

likeness in all who yield to Him (Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; I Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 5:18; II Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 5:16; 22-23).

3. Angels & Demons

We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16). The holy angels are obedient spirits ministering to the heirs of salvation and glorifying God (Hebrews 1:6-7; 13-14). Certain angels, called demons, Satan being their chief, through deliberate choice revolted and fell from their exalted position (Revelation 12:7-9). They now tempt individuals to rebel against God (I Timothy 4:1; I Peter 5:8). Their destiny in hell has been sealed by Christ's victory over sin and death (Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10).

4. Man

We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation (Genesis 1:26-28). As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect (Psalm 139:13-17). Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8:22). Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God (Romans 3:9- 18,23). Satan tempts people to rebel against God, even those who love Him (Ephesians 4:27; II Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 16:23). Nonetheless, everyone is personally responsible to God for thoughts, actions and beliefs and has the right to approach Him directly through Jesus Christ, the only mediator (Romans 14:12; I Timothy 2:5).

5. Salvation

We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death (II Timothy 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:23). It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27). As a child of God, the believer is acquitted of all guilt and brought into a new relationship of peace (Romans 5:1). Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God (II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15; I Thessalonians 3:12).

6. The Church

We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5). Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Acts 2:41-42, 47; Luke 24:45-48). Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility (Acts 13:1-3, 14:26-28). The form of government is understood to be congregational (Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23). The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (I Corinthians 11:23-26). To express unity in Christ, local churches form associations and a conference for mutual counsel, fellowship and a more effective fulfillment of Christ's commission (Acts 15; I Corinthians 6:1-3).

7. Church & State

We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God (Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; II Corinthians 3:37; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29). Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other (Matthew 22:21). Christians should pray for civil leaders, and obey and support government in matters not contrary to Scripture (I Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 13-16). The state should guarantee religious liberty to all persons and groups regardless of their religious preferences, consistent with the common good.

8. Christian Life

We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society (Matthew 5:13-16). In a Christ-like spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions (Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; I John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4).

9. Marriage & Family

We believe the Bible teaches that marriage refers to the covenant relationship between one man and one woman, as instituted by God in the beginning, to the exclusion of all others (Genesis 1: 20b-24). We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4).

10. Last Things

We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth (Ephesians 1:9-10, Revelation 21:1). The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly in glory according to His promise (Titus 2:13, Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3). The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness (John 5:28-29). The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:10). The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord (Philippians 3:20-21; II Corinthians 5:10; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

MBA Marriage Resolution

(Adopted: MBA Annual General Session, October 15, 2005)

As the Supreme Court of Canada has clearly stated in their reference re: Same Sex Marriage (neutral citation: 2004 SCC 79) that the Charter protects “religious official from being compelled by the state to perform civil or religious same-sex marriages that are contrary to their religious beliefs,” thus we, the Manitoba Baptist Association, state our following position on marriage:

Whereas, in accordance to the North American Baptist Conference Statement of Faith, we affirm that each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect, and

Whereas, we also affirm that we are called to introduce each person to the loving, reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ and the life changing transformation described in scripture, and

Whereas, we believe that the Bible teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman only, to recognize other unions as legitimate marriages would be contrary to our understanding of scripture within the Manitoba Baptist Association and the North American Baptist Conference, and

Whereas, though as Christians we seek to demonstrate God’s love to all people, we will not compromise our convictions on marriage as defined by scripture.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. As a matter of belief, doctrine and religious practice, the Manitoba Baptist Association reserves the term “marriage” for the covenant relationship between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.
2. And that the Manitoba Baptist Association establishes the standard that all individuals, who are licensed to perform marriages through the Manitoba Baptist Association, not officiate at, or co-officiate at, any marriage outside of the previously stated definition of marriage.
3. And that in the event that an individual licensed to perform marriages through the Manitoba Baptist Association, officiates at or co-officiates at a marriage that is outside of the previously stated definition of marriage, will be subject to disciplinary review and loss of license.
4. And we recommend that all churches in the Manitoba Baptist Association adopt the above as a policy of the individual, local church. We recommended that churches also review their “churches use policies” to reflect the resolution as stated.
5. And that the facilities of the Manitoba Baptist Association will not be used for weddings or receptions where the marriage union is contrary to the provisions of this resolution.

Clergy Registration Application

(Adopted: MBA Annual General Session • October 13, 2007)

Please sign and date the application as well as fill in the information that is requested. Then mail it to the Manitoba Baptist Association Recording Secretary. This will allow us to begin to process your permanent or temporary license.

I have read and agree to comply with and not act in any way contrary to the Manitoba Baptist Association policy regarding marriage.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please print the following information:

Full Name: _____ Ph. No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Current Ministry: _____

Church Name: _____ Ph. No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

NAB Ordination Date: (if applicable) _____

Required for temporary license only:

Name of Groom/Party in full: _____

Name of Bride/Party in full: _____

Date of intended Marriage: _____

Place of intended Marriage: _____
(City, Town, etc.)

For Association Office Use Only

License Number: _____ Temporary Permanent

Issue Date: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Date Sent: _____

Notes: