Reformed Baptist Doctrine

*A **brief** guide to the convictions of the proposed church plant*

We seek to uphold the biblical truths recovered and articulated during the Protestant Reformation. These convictions shape our worship, our life together, and our proclamation of Christ.

The Five Solas

We receive Scripture alone as our final authority and confess salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to God's glory alone.

Sola Scriptura / Sola Gratia / Sola Fide / Solus Christus / Soli Deo Gloria

Covenant Theology and Biblical Theology

Scripture unfolds God's one plan of redemption, fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We understand this through the Covenant of Redemption (the Father's and Son's eternal agreement for our salvation), the Covenant of Works (life promised to Adam upon perfect obedience), and the Covenant of Grace (salvation through faith in Christ).

Calvinistic Convictions

God rules over all things and sovereignly saves sinners through Jesus Christ. Salvation rests on His gracious initiative. We freely proclaim the gospel to all, calling everyone to repent and believe.

The Law and the Gospel

God's moral law reveals His will, exposes our sin, and guides our obedience. The gospel announces forgiveness and life through Jesus Christ. By His Spirit, God enables believers to obey Him with gratitude.

The Christian Sabbath

The fourth commandment remains morally binding. We observe Sunday, the Lord's Day, as the Christian Sabbath, setting it apart for worship and holy rest, with works of necessity and mercy.

Regulative Principle of Worship and the Ordinary Means of Grace

The regulative principle of worship means that God tells us in Scripture how He is to be worshiped. We seek to include the elements He commands and depend on His appointed means of grace: the Word, prayer, baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

Notes and Questions

Baptist and Confessional Distinctives

Believers' baptism

We baptize disciples who credibly profess repentance and faith in Christ by immersion in water. Baptism is a public sign of union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and a means of grace through which God strengthens the believer and edifies the congregation.

The Lord's Supper

We remember His sacrifice and, by faith, enjoy true spiritual communion with Christ. This ordinance is for believers and nourishes our faith and fellowship together.

The Membership of the Church

Membership is for those who, as far as the church can discern, are regenerate and have a credible profession of faith and repentance. Members commit themselves to worship, discipleship, mutual care, and biblical accountability.

The Government of the Church

Each local church is governed under Christ without an external church hierarchy, while pursuing fellowship and partnership with other congregations.

Local churches are to be Christ-ruled, Elder-led, Deacon-served, and Congregationally-engaged.

A Confessional Church

We intend to adopt the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith as our doctrinal confession. Scripture remains our final authority; the confession makes our understanding of its teaching public and clear.

You can read the confession and find meeting details on the Church Plant Concept webpage. Modern-English copies of the confession are also available from Founders Ministries for about $6.

harvestdesmoines.org/church-plant-concept

Learning Together

If these terms are new to you, you are welcome to come to our monthly meetings, ask questions, and learn with us. No prior study of the confession is needed to attend! We desire to grow together in our knowledge of Scripture and obedience to Christ.

Monthly Meetings Example Agendas

1st Sunday Each Month Teaching Reformed Baptist doctrine		3rd Sunday Each Month Prayer Emphasis + Teaching	
5 mins	Welcome, Scripture Reading & Opening Prayer	5-10 mins	Welcome, Scripture Reading & Opening Instructions
20-25 mins	Teaching Time	20-25 mins	Guided prayer time
5-10 mins	Q&A and Discussion Time	10-15 mins	Teaching / Q&A time
10-15 mins	Church planting tasks/deliverables	5-10 mins	Church planting tasks/deliverables and closing prayer
5-10 mins	Closing prayer time		