



## The proposal of the NLC to the 2021 Assembly concerning Statements of Faith

### Preamble

The attempted introduction of the 2017 Statement of Belief as the Statement affirmed by the Baptist Union in place of the 1924 has led to unfortunate divisions within the Union. These divisions generate much emotion and have overshadowed the unity that the Baptist Union needs if it is to go forward with its mission. We must recognise that as a Baptist Union of churches we do have different theologies and emphasis among us. However, we are united because of our Baptist distinctions and our evangelical theology. Within these parameters we can and should allow for differences and vigorous debate while at the same time be unified in the gospel and in the mission that Christ our Head has called us to. The following proposal is an attempt to allow for some theological difference while maintaining such unity.

### Proposal

The NLC proposes that the 1924 Statement of faith be retained as the statement of faith for the Baptist Union of SA. Therefore, all member churches and Regional or other Networks will of necessity have to agree to this 1924 Statement of Faith and include it in their constitutions. However, as has happened in the past with some member churches, other statements of Faith/Belief may also be part of a member churches or Regional or other Networks' constitutions, provided that such statements are not in direct conflict with the 1924 statement and the 1989 statement of Baptist Principles. These extra statements of faith/belief may therefore act as clarifying statements contained in the 1924 and/or giving emphasis to particular doctrines and theologies that describe the theological position of such member churches or regional networks. Any added statement of faith/belief needs to have the approval of the Assembly at the recommendation of the NLC. Should any point on these statements change then this needs to be submitted to the NLC for ratification. Examples of such added statements of Faith are the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith and the 2017 Baptist Statement of Belief.