



April 26, 2002

PUBLIC DECLARATION BY HISTORIC BAPTIST CHURCH
REGARDING PEDOPHILIA OR UNGODLY SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OF
INDIVIDUALS TOWARD MINORS
AMENDMENT TO THE CHURCH'S BYLAWS.

NSD 4/26/02

REV 4/28/02

ARTICLE XII. Child Sexual Molestation.

As a result of the recent accusations of child molestation and predatory pedophilia by ordained members of a certain religious organization, we at Historic Baptist Church publicly denounce such activity as sin, as ungodly behavior, and extremely harmful to the individuals and their loved ones; and, in addition, detrimental to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and contrary to the good laws of this great State, and our great Nation.

We, therefore, as an independent church, have approved the following amendment to our church's bylaws, and by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we will work with all law enforcement entities toward the full criminal prosecution of any individual whom we have known to have engaged in child rape, sodomy of a minor, pedophilia, or any other sexual activity between an adult and a minor; and of persons known to have attempted to engage in such activity, whether a member of this church or one not a member. This applies to any person known for such activity in the past, present, or in the future. We will cooperate fully and in any way possible with the State Law Enforcement Offices in testifying, providing evidence, and in helping to prosecute such individuals guilty of such crimes to fullest extent of the law, in accordance to the commandments and spirit of the New Testament as found in Romans 13:1-4; Mark 12:17; Proverbs 8:15; I Peter 2:17; I Peter 2:13-15; Titus 3:1-4; etc. We state furthermore that we accept such deviant sexual behavior as gross sin, unbecoming of a believer in Jesus Christ, and that we will put out of this church permanently any individual found to be guilty of the sin of pedophilia, the sin of sodomy, child rape, or any similar sin, or the attempt to commit such sin. We will also warn our sister churches if we find that such activity is suspected within her midst. We will have no tolerance whatsoever with the sinful child sexual molestation in any form.

We, therefore, at Historic Baptist Church commit before God to follow these guidelines:

- I. We wholeheartedly reject as sinful, ungodly, and against the Laws of God and the laws of this State, any sexual activity between an adult and a minor, pedophilia, child sexual molestation, sodomy, etc. We adhere to the words of the Lord as written by the Apostle Paul in Hebrews 13:4: "Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." See also, Ephesians 5:5; Galatians 5:19-21; I Corinthians 6:9, 10; I Timothy 3:1-6; I Corinthians 7:2; Romans 1:24-32; Genesis 13:13; etc.

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220 West Main Street, North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852 (401) 294-9065 www.HistoricBaptist.org



- II. We will not harbor any hate or bitterness against any individual guilty of such ungodly behavior. We will not be filled with revenge or wrath toward such persons, but will, with the spirit of Christian love, pray for his repentance, and work toward the hindrance of the sinful actions. We will not however allow our Christian love to excuse, tolerate, or cover such sinful and ungodly behavior as child sexual molestation. See Jude 21, 22; II John 1:9-11; I Corinthians 5:1-8, Matthew 5:44; Matthew 18:10; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1, 2; etc.
- III. We will report immediately to the State's appropriate Law Enforcement office the names of individuals known to have committed child sexual molestation, and all information necessary for the legal prosecution of such individuals. See I Peter 2:13-17, etc.
- IV. We will cooperate in any way possible to provide evidence, information, testimony, or any other actions so that this unlawful behavior can be dealt with legally. See Titus 3:1; I Timothy 2:1-6; etc.
- V. We will not hide or attempt to shield any persons, regardless of their status, whether ordained or not ordained, whether male or female. We hereby declare that we will not tolerate child sexual molestation in any form, but will work with law enforcement agencies to purge this sinful, ungodly, and illegal practice from our community. See I Peter 2:16; John 15:20-25; Jude 1:4; II Peter 2:10-22; James 2:9; etc.

These amendments to our bylaws, by the Grace of Jesus Christ, are officially approved and adopted immediately by Historic Baptist Church, April 28, 2002, by unanimous vote of the church, members present and voting.

Witnessing:

[Signature 4/28/02]

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Pastor of Historic Baptist Church

[Signature 4/28/02]

William R. Butler, Associate Pastor, Historic Baptist Church

[Signature 4/28/02]

Thomas J. Locatelli, Deacon, Historic Baptist Church

[Signature 4/28/02]

Robert A. Silva, Trustee, Historic Baptist Church