



Profile of

Highland Hills Baptist Church

April 2024



Dear Fellow Servants in Christ,

Highland Hills Baptist Church has prepared this document to help prospective candidates for the position of Associate Pastor of Student Ministries become acquainted with several facets of our church. We thank you for taking the time to read it and, as God leads, consider sending your information to us. We pray the material will give you a sense of our beliefs, focus and other information about our church.

If you would like further information, please contact:

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Warmest regards,
James Wells (Senior Pastor)
Highland Hills Baptist Church



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Mission and Values

Mission and Values

Mission

Highland Hills Baptist Church is a community of believers covenanted together for the purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ. We gather to worship God, give attention to His Word, and minister to one another. Through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, we desire to live in obedience to all of Christ's commands and to bring others into faithful discipleship.

Values

We Value the Scriptures

God's inspired Word is the authoritative and trustworthy rule of faith and practice.^a Nothing shall be allowed to supersede the place of the preaching and teaching of the Bible in our church. The Bible is both timeless and timely, relevant to the common needs of all people at all times and to the specific problems of contemporary living. We are committed to providing a strong pulpit ministry, age-appropriate instruction of the Bible for all, and encouragement to faithful living in obedience to the commands of Scripture.

We Value People

Every individual is God's unique creation, formed in His image, and so loved by Him that He has provided salvation through his Son.^b It is God's will that the gospel of life be proclaimed to the whole world, and that redeemed people find strength and encouragement in the church. Everyone is welcomed at our church, and the importance God places on people will be reflected in all of our ministries. We are committed to loving people with God's love, and placing a priority on their spiritual and physical needs.

We Value Prayer

The Christian life is a spiritual battle for which we are commanded to put on the full armor of God and to pray in the Spirit.^c As God's people we are fully dependent upon Him. Convinced that all of our time, talents and treasures belong to God, we must seek to know and do His will in every area of life. We yearn to be people of prayer—both as individuals and as a church. We are committed to praying for one another, for our pastors, church leaders and missionaries, as well as for the ministries of our church, and for the evangelization of the world.

Mission and Values

We Value Excellence

Scripture directs that whatever we do must be done to the glory of God.^d We desire that our actions and choices—whether it is the selection of music for our worship services or the appointment and care of our facilities—be carried out to the best of our abilities and reflect well on our Savior. We shall be careful not to give place to wrongful pride as we strive for what is best. We are committed to doing everything in manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, motivated only by our love for Him.

We Value Evangelism and Missions

We are contagious about gospel and missions. It is our desire to have each member personally committed to the necessity of missions and evangelism; to promote a dynamic spiritual climate which is centripetal (as it draws people into the life and ministry of Highland Hills) in order to be centrifugal (as it sends them out into other-directed gospel life.)^e

Confession of Faith**Confession of Faith**

The following summarizes the basics of our faith. The entire Confession of Faith with Biblical support can be found on the Highland Hills website at www.hhills.org.

- We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God and without error in the original writings. They are the complete and final revelation of God and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- We believe in one God existing in an incomprehensible Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.
- We believe in the virgin birth, death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We believe He freely took on our nature yet, without sin, lived a total obedient life, and His death was a voluntary substitution of Himself in order to provide atonement for our sins.
- We believe the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, bears witness to the truth of the Word of God, convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness. He is the agent of the new birth, He baptizes into the church and He indwells every true believer.
- We believe the Genesis account of creation is to be literally interpreted. We believe mankind (male and female) was created holy and upright in the image of God, that they fell from this condition because of their sin, and as a consequence the whole human race is born sinners by nature and is dead in trespasses and sin.
- We believe in God's electing grace. We believe the gospel of salvation is to be offered to all and whosoever will can be saved. We believe that salvation involves the new birth of the believer, that salvation is the result of one's belief, repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ.
- We believe a Christian is called to live a holy and blameless life for Christ. We believe God has given each believer a new nature which allows one to have victory over sin and to grow in Christ likeness. We believe that even as a Christian grows in maturity, there will be a constant battle with the flesh, the world, and the devil this side of heaven.

Confession of Faith

- We believe the church was initiated at Pentecost by the coming of the Holy Spirit. We believe the church is the body of Christ, is commissioned to make disciples (evangelize and edify) to fulfill Christ's purpose for her. We believe in two ordinances: Baptism—immersion in water expressing the testimony of one's identification with Christ; and Communion—a service to continually remind us what Jesus accomplished on the cross on our behalf.

- We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead. We believe the righteous will receive new bodies and will forever be with Jesus Christ, and the unrighteous will be raised to be judged and forever separated from the presence of God.

- We believe in the personal bodily return of Jesus Christ who, as King of kings and Lord of lords, will return to earth in great triumph. We believe He will establish a new heaven and new earth wherein there is complete righteousness.

Characteristics of the Christian Life

Characteristics of the Christian Life

Enablement

We believe the Scriptures provide the basic principles to guide the understanding, attitude, and actions of a Christian. The new life the Christian has in Jesus Christ, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, gives the ability to will and the power to live a life glorifying and pleasing God.

Attitude

We believe a Christian possesses a desire to mature in Christlikeness and his/her attitude is characterized by humility toward, dependence upon and submission to God and His Word. A Christian desires to live a life in which Christ is Lord of all thought, words, and actions. Scripture reading and study and prayer is a key mark of the Christian's response to please God.

Evidence

We believe the reality of the Christian life is evidenced by a growing hunger to know Christ, a manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit, and a commitment to living in obedience to the will of God. Knowing Christ is not limited to knowing about Him, but involves our being so consumed by His righteousness and love that there is a growing desire to walk worthy of Him. The fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—is a work of the Spirit in the Christian's life which is marked in one's testimony and response to others. Obedience and a life of righteousness gives evidence that one truly is identified with Christ's death and resurrection.

Demonstrated

We believe Scripture teaches the faith of a Christian is not only an affirmative response of the mind to the Gospel but also involves an ongoing active response which is demonstrated in the life. Among the long list of godly characteristics and responses are the following:

- A Christian loves God by worshipping and giving thanks to Him for Who He is and for all He has done.
- A Christian is committed to Christ's work in the church through participation, prayer, service and endeavoring to keep the unity of the body.

Characteristics of the Christian Life

- A Christian loves one another as Jesus loves. This love involves the response of the will to positively attend to the needs of another. Speech which is good and edifying, kindness, encouragement, bearing with and forgiving one another all display the reality of this love.
- A Christian is called to live holy and blameless in this world. Scripture teaches one is to refrain from such practices as marital infidelity and sexual immorality as well to avoid any impurity or covetousness. The Christian is to stay away from the appearance of evil.
- A Christian should take into account the sensitivities and weaknesses of others when exercising freedom in areas in which the Scriptures do not speak or in situations in which actions may cause others to sin.

Church History

Church History

Holland Baptist Church was founded in 1894 by a group of Dutch immigrants living in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The congregation was a strong testimony in the community against the worldly practices of the day. The church operated without a budget and the pastor was supported by free-will offerings.

Location

Holland Baptist Church first met in the homes of members and then in a small chapel. In 1906 as their numbers grew, a new chapel was constructed on Quarry Avenue, and in 1924 it was enlarged. In 1944 the church changed its legal name to Quarry Avenue Baptist Church. Quarry Avenue Baptist Church continued to grow and it relocated to a new building on Northrup Avenue in 1961. At that time the church's name was also changed to Highland Hills Baptist Church. In 1979 the church added a multipurpose gymnasium and family center, and a nursery addition was added to the building in 1990. The church conducted a long-term ministry planning analysis of its current location in 2001, and the first phase of this plan, a youth room addition, was completed in 2003. An elevator was added in 2023, and future phases of construction are planned for additional classroom, office, and fellowship space.

Ministries

In the church's early years all the preaching was done in the Dutch language. This evolved into an early ministry challenge as the young people were speaking and being educated in English. It wasn't until 1943 when all services were regularly preached in English. From its early days, the church was strongly committed to both home and foreign missions. In 1945 the church expanded its missions outreach, with a goal to devote half of its budget to missions. In the mid 1940's the church voted to join the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. During this same period, many new ministries were introduced including programs for children and youth, vacation bible school, men's and women's fellowship groups and a church choir. In 1971 the church called its first full-time Youth Pastor. Soon after, Highland Hills also began the AWANA program for children running concurrently with the Wednesday evening prayer meeting.

Pastoral Leadership

Highland Hills Baptist Church has always been committed to exegetically preach the Holy Word of God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. There have only been seven pastors in the 130 year history of the church:

1894 – 1944	Douwe Laansma
1945 – 1958	Robert Dice
1959 – 1968	Gordon Cook
1968 – 1984	Richard Woodworth
1986 – 1997	Stanley Mohr
1997 – 2012	Dave Lamb
2015 –	James Wells

Other Information

Other Information

Scripture Translations

Our pastor preaches from the New American Standard Bible. Others use the New King James, English Standard, or New International Versions. Our people use a variety of translations.

Ministries

Highland Hills Baptist Church is committed to missions and especially to the specific ones we support. At present we are supporting 19 missionaries (17 active), with 5 coming from within our church family. About 30% of our current budget is for the financial support of our missions family.

Various ministries in our church provide focus for specific areas of church life. Our men's ministry has bible studies, prayer breakfasts, and discipleship. Our women's ministry is very committed and provides opportunities for Bible studies, fellowship, retreats, and small life groups. We also have dedicated people who serve in the AWANA program for children's ministry.

Service Schedule

Sunday Morning	9:30 AM
Sunday FLOCK Hour	11:00 AM
Sunday Evening	6:00 PM
Wednesday AWANA / Youth	6:30 PM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 PM

Other Information

Facilities

Our sanctuary is colonial in style and seats approximately 340. We have adequate classrooms, a large youth room and a gym which is used for dinners and receptions. The church also owns a home adjacent to the church property which is used as a residence for missionaries home on furlough.

