The Potter's House Baptist Church
Doctrinal Statement
(approved September 14, 2014)

The Potter's House Baptist Church of Bucyrus, Ohio, is a member of the New Testament Church established by Jesus Christ, in affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention whose enterprise is reaching the world for Christ (http://www.sbc.net/aboutus/basicbeliefs.asp). The following constitutes the basic tenets of this body of believers.

God
We believe in God, creator and sustainer of all life, both seen and unseen (Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:19-20), as well as being the father of mankind (Matthew 6:9, Luke 12:32, John 8:41). He is at the same time omniscient (Matthew 12:25, John 2:24), omnipotent (Luke 9:43), omnipresent (Acts 17:27), invisible (1 Timothy 6:16), immutable (Malachi 3:6), eternal (Psalm 90:2, Revelation 1:8), and incomprehensible (Psalm 139:6; Ecclesiastes 3:11); He is altogether perfect, sinless and holy (Matthew 5:48). He is known by many descriptive names, including Yahweh/Jehovah (Lord), the great “I AM,” El/Elohim (the Trinity), Adonai (Master, Lord), and El Shaddai (Almighty God). He is the first part of the Trinity, along with the Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (John 1:34; John 3:16), as our Savior (Luke 2:11; Acts 5:31) and the Messiah/Christ, or “anointed one” (Matthew 1:1; Matthew 16:16), prophesied throughout the Old Testament. Because of His death on the cross, where He shed His blood as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and His resurrection from the dead, He is perfectly qualified to be our intercessor and mediator with God (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6, 9:15). He is both King (Mark 15:2; John 18:36-37; 1 Timothy 6:15) and Lord (Matthew 12:8; John 13:13) and is perfectly divine (John 1:1; John 8:58) and sinless (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21). He, also eternal, is the second part of the Trinity, along with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit
We believe in the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, sent by Him to indwell all those who believe in Him (John 14:17). He is our comforter (John 14:15), counselor (John 14:16), and intercessor (John 14:16; Romans 8:26). The Spirit gives to each believer one or more spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8) while also convicting individuals of sin (John 16:8). He is both invisible (John 14:17; John 16:7) and eternal (Hebrews 9:14).

Bible
The holy written Word of God, the Bible, is first and foremost completely inspired by God Himself (Acts 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17), and, as such, is immutable, inerrant, and infallible (1 Corinthians 13:10). It contains a true account of the history of mankind and this world and is prophetic of their future.

Church
The New Testament Church is a body of believers in Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), who are baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5, 8) as a result of their repentance and faith in Christ for their salvation. The Church is built on Christ as its chief cornerstone (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 2:6) with its sole purpose being to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to build up and teach its individual members or saints (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 11:26). The Church will, in Heaven, serve as the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:23).
Ordinances
We observe two ordinances: water baptism by immersion (Acts 2:38) and holy communion (Matthew 26:26-27; 1 Corinthians 11:23, 25).

Man
All human beings are created *imago dei*, in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Each one of us is born sinful (Romans 3:10 and 3:23), totally depraved (Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:11), yet totally redeemable through the shed blood of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9).

Sin
Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s fall in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:6-7), and all mankind since that time are sinners (Romans 3:23, 5:12; Galatians 5:19-21). Sin is punishable by spiritual death (Romans 6:23; James 1:15), but Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself on the cross so that we could come to Him in repentance and be saved from the punishment of sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). After salvation, confession of sin leads to forgiveness for the Christian (1 John 1:9).

Heaven/Hell
Heaven is God’s dwelling place and the eternal home of the saved (Ecclesiastes 5:2; Matthew 5:3, 6:9; Acts 7:49; Romans 8:17). It is a place without tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain (Revelation 21:4). Hell, on the other hand, is an actual place where the unsaved go (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10). It is a place of eternal fire and wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 5:22, 13:42). Hell marks eternal separation from God.

Satan
Satan was an angel in heaven until he fell because of pride (Isaiah 14:12-15). He is, therefore, cursed by God (Genesis 3:14) and has become prince of this world and of the powers of the air (John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2). He is an adversary of both God and man (1 Peter 5:8), and he who commits sin is of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Eschatology (the "end times")
Both the dead and living in Jesus Christ, at some future time, will be caught up with him (the "rapture") in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Nothing precludes this event from happening at any moment. Those remaining after the rapture will enter a period of seven years of “tribulation” (two 3 1/2-year periods). All of this reflects the "pre-tribulationist" view.

In addition, the second 3 1/2-year period (the "Great Tribulation") will be ruled by the Antichrist, Satan's emissary on earth, who will torment Christians and Jews. It will end in the great battle of Armageddon and Christ's return to this earth ("second coming"). After Christ returns, earth will enter the Millennium, a peaceful period of rule under Christ during which Satan is bound. He will then be loosed at the end of the Millennium and will foment a final revolt. God will defeat him and throw him into Hell with his followers. A new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem will be created (see especially the books of Daniel and Revelation).