

*Personal Statement of Faith*

The foundation of my faith begins with belief in the triune God consisting of God, our Creator, Christ, our Redeemer, and the Holy Ghost, our Advocate. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit operate in concert with one another working to bring about God's desires for humanity.

I believe God is the creator of all, seen and unseen, known and unknown, spoken and unspoken. God desires a relationship with creation, as evidenced in the Old Testament through God's making humankind in God's own image, through direct interaction with people, and repeatedly working for humanity's good.

The incarnation of Christ, the son of God, the promised Messiah, fully divine and fully human, is the ultimate testimony to the relationship God desires with us. God will go to great lengths in order to demonstrate God's love, generosity, and direct God's people toward right living. This is evidenced by Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

The Holy Spirit is the Divine movement in and through the world inspiring, encouraging, and pushing us closer to God and the people we are created to be. The Holy Spirit encapsulates the mystery of God, a force present within us, poured out upon us meant to inspire, teach, and remind us whose we are.

Scripture is divinely inspired and guides our understanding of the triune God. Being rooted in the Reformed tradition, Scripture informs us that the true Church is a formulation of preaching, sacraments, and nurturing a community.

Preaching shares the new covenant through Christ and encourages humanity to participate in it. Sharing the Word of God through preaching recalls the promise of new life through Christ, expressly for the purpose of teaching and correction, through corporate Worship.

Sacraments signify our union with Christ. Through communion and baptism we affirm Christ's sacrifice and our adoption into the body of Christ. The Lord's Supper serves to remind us of the atoning work of Christ and his promise to return. Baptism is adoption into the body of Christ and sign of God's claim on humanity.

All of this comes together and connects best when we participate in a nurturing community. We are called to operate corporately as a place of comfort, sharing, worship, truth-telling, justice seeking, and a glimpse of God's Kingdom as promised in Scripture.

As an image-bearer of God, infused by the Holy Spirit and a representative of the body of Christ, I am called to bring the companionship of the triune God to all people, at all times, and in all places. As part of the priesthood of all believers, the church is present when I gather with others to worship God; show God's love and generosity in my daily routines; align myself with the poor, oppressed and marginalized; speak for those who cannot speak for themselves; welcome all of humankind with open arms; behave responsibly toward creation and care for its sustainability; support others through financial, spiritual, mental, and physical crisis; welcome people through the one and holy baptism; and in all things seek to follow the teachings of Christ in my interactions with others.