

## **Statement of Faith:**

I believe in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –each person distinct and yet perfect in unity, community and purpose. I believe in the Sovereign God of Israel, the Creator of the Universe, who created us for a loving relationship, sharing in God’s creative purposes. I believe in Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, born of the virgin Mary, the fullest revelation of God’s grace and love, the one before whom all of creation will someday bow and confess. I believe in the fullness of Christ’s humanity and divinity. I believe in the Holy Spirit, in perfect unity with the Father and the Son, the bearer of gifts to the saints, who convicts and comforts the Church, and reveals truth.

I believe that God created a universe that is “good.” A universe that exists only as God’s divine expression, in which God offers God’s self, and invites humanity, which has been created in God’s image, into a dialogue of personal self-giving response. I believe humanity has refused to partake in this dialogue, and chosen instead to worship false gods, which has marred all of creation, human community, and the ability for humans to interact on a personal level with God. I believe only God has the power to restore what has been broken, and that God has chosen to do so through the Incarnation, Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe Christ is alive in the world through the Spirit, and that the Spirit empowers those who believe in Christ to respond in joyful obedience to God’s love and grace.

I believe in the Church, called to be a sign to the world of what God wishes for all of creation, a humanity reconciled to God, and demonstrating what reconciled community should look like. I believe that in the Sacraments we are brought into and experience the grace of the presence of God. I believe that this presence changes us, and empowers us to reveal God to the world.

I believe Jesus Christ to be the means by which God has restored and will continue to restore creation to its original intent. I believe the work of Jesus Christ to be universal, for all of creation, that God does not wish any person to perish, but that humankind has a duty to respond to that work. I believe that because God does not wish any to perish those who comprise God’s Church must proclaim the Good News of God’s love and redemption. I believe the Bible to be the authoritative scriptures of God, the revelation of God, in which God demonstrates who God is and about what God is concerned.

I believe that all of our thinking about God is but a dim reflection of the reality. As such, I believe that the Church of God can only begin to reflect the truth about God when we do it together in respectful dialogue that seeks to understand the perceptions of the other. I believe that Christ desires to remove the barriers of race, gender, class, tribe and nation that preclude authentic community, and that God calls us to be participants in God’s reconciliation through open, honest, respectful dialogue in which we can be united with those who differ from us. I believe that the Church must transcend political, racial, economic, and social boundaries, enfolding all peoples into a Kingdom that is marked by identity as a person of Christ.