

Pastor Candidate
Statement of Faith

I believe in one Triune God in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Triune God is one in essence, and all three persons are equal in power, and eternally dwell in dynamic relationship to one another. I believe God the Father created our earth, its creatures, and formed humanity. Created in the image of the Triune God, humanity is called to mutual relationship with one another and the Triune God, and are entrusted as stewards of creation. Humanity disobeyed God's command, chose sin, and suffered the consequences of death. The same Triune God that created humanity remained faithful to creation, forming a covenant with a particular people, the Israelites.

This covenant continues through Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, the Word made flesh, fully human and fully divine. As prophet, Jesus Christ proclaims the coming reign of God and instructs us. As priest, Jesus Christ renders to God the perfect sacrifice of love and obedience on our behalf. As king, Jesus Christ rules the world and promises the ultimate victory of the Triune God's reign of righteousness and peace. God takes on the burden of human guilt in the person of Jesus Christ. The cross is God's triumphant love conquering the power of sin and death. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus all creation is reconciled to God in Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the old life is gone, and a new life is begun. The Holy Spirit empowers us, binds us to one another in a covenant as the body of Christ, and draws us to repentance, obedience, and sanctification. Opening up our whole being to the Triune God, the Holy Spirit engages and sustains us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the water of Baptism, feeds us at the Lord's table.

Called by the Triune God, knit together as the body of Christ, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Church is entrusted with unique tasks of worship, fellowship, and exhibiting the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.[1] "The Church is called to undertake this mission, even at the risk of losing its life." [2] Scripture is a special revelation to God's sovereign grace at work from creation to the history of Israel, and above all in the liberating life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are signs and seals of God's grace. Christ is present through the work of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments and through the Word of God that is proclaimed in preaching. Nourished by the gathering around the Word and sealing of the Word we are sent out to participate in God's work and mission in the world.

I believe the Triune God is at work in this world, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God. One day Christ will come again to consummate God's work of redemption, and all things will be made new. Trusting in this gracious Triune God, I seek to offer my life as a living sacrifice.

[1] Adapted from the Great Ends of the Church from the Book of Order

[2] Great ends of the Church from the old Book of Order.