

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

April, 2024

Randy Schreurs

I believe in the one GOD, the God of Abraham and Moses, of Deborah and Esther. GOD created the universe and all that has life, and God declared that his wondrous work was good. God is merciful, gracious, kind, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. This God is faithful to his people and sometimes corrects us because God longs to see us reach our potential as people created in his image. Within the unity of God, there are three Persons - the Creator/Father, Son/Savior, and Spirit/Sustainer.

I believe that JESUS OF NAZARETH is God's Son. Jesus became fully human while remaining fully God. Jesus followed God's will, teaching God's kingdom, healing the sick, showing grace, and opposing the proud. The Christ came into the world to deliver God's people from bondage to sin and death. Jesus was obedient by sacrificing his life to die on the cross. God showed his marvelous mercy and power by raising his Servant to new life. Thus, Christ opened the way for us to fellowship with God and the promise of eternal life. I believe that someday, Christ will return to earth, and his Kingdom will be eternal.

I believe the HOLY SPIRIT is the third Person of the Trinity. The Spirit is at work in all of us, by opening hearts and minds and shaping us for God's purposes. The Spirit was sent to counsel, guide and empower God's people to serve and witness to God's work in the world. God's Spirit continues to breathe life into the church. The Spirit is the creative, mysterious expression of God's purposes.

I believe the SCRIPTURES of the Old and New Testaments were inspired by God's Spirit. Thus, we read the Scriptures as God's Word, although the writers were influenced by the culture in which they lived. Scripture reminds us of our dependance on God and God's faithfulness to us. Scripture tells us the story of the faith community shaped by Jesus' teaching and God's Spirit. The Old and New Testaments are the faithful witness of God's people to God's revelation.

HUMAN BROKENNESS AND SALVATION - Humanity was created in God's image but rebelled against God. Pride, selfishness, greed, lust, and lies are symptoms of our sin and brokenness. Passed down through the generations, sin and selfishness became part of our rebellious nature. Thus, a Redeemer was needed to save us from the consequences of our sin and separation from God. In his mercy, God provided Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Justification by grace through faith means relying on and trusting in Christ's work for salvation (Ephesians 2;8-9). We can go directly to God for mercy, grace, and guidance.

I believe the CHURCH includes all those who trust Christ for salvation. The church is Christ's body on earth, and Christ is the head. The church becomes holy through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection. In life and in death, we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ. We are called serve the world as salt and light, as instruments of God's grace and justice, inviting others to learn from the Master.

I believe the SACRAMENTS are sacred means of grace, in which ordinary things become holy. The Lord's Supper, also called Holy Communion, is a feast of remembrance, communion, and hope, in which we experience the spiritual presence of Christ. The

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Called Meeting
Community Presbyterian Church
Forsyth, Missouri

baptismal water signifies the washing away of sin. Baptism is the sign of becoming part of Christ's church. Baptism and communion are for God's people and their children.

I believe that SOCIAL JUSTICE includes Biblical values. God is just. Every person has been treated in God's image and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. Jesus treated women very well compared to their lowly status in the ancient world (Mary Magdalene, the Samaritan woman at the well), and Jesus spoke publicly with women. As God's people, we need to heed the call of God's prophets who call us to live in just ways, treat others justly, and work toward justice in our world.

I believe in God who has journeyed with humanity. God has been faithful to us when we have lost faith in God. God hears all who cry out for peace, help, justice, and salvation. God is drawing near to those whose hearts and minds are opened by the influence of the Holy Spirit.