

Statement of Faith – George Records

God: I trust in God, the sovereign, loving, and just Creator and redeemer who made the world for God's glory and created humans in the image of the divine in order to love and worship God. This is the triune God, three persons which are co-existent and co-eternal. God created humans in God's image, in relationship with God and others. Sorrowfully, humans rejected and persist in refusing and misunderstanding the love and sovereignty of God. Alternatively, we continue to be motivated by a destructive fallen nature which we cannot, and habitually choose not, to overcome. In this state we do damage to others, ourselves, and creation. Nevertheless, rather than abandoning us, God embraced us with a covenant of grace to forgive sin and afford reconciliation. God's promise has never altered from Abram, to David, to Christ, to the present. In a comprehensive feat of reconciliation, God not only pursues us from on high as a widow searches for a lost coin, God embodies the perfect human response through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ: I confess the need for the forgiveness of sins that comes through God's gracious gift of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, the only begotten of God, who was fully human, born of the Virgin Mary, fully God, and the incarnation of the eternal Logos. Through Christ, the Kingdom of God on earth was established. Jesus shared the needs, joys, temptations and sorrows of creation. Religious leaders, who were challenged and offended by Jesus' life and teaching; opposed, unjustly condemned, and finally had Christ crucified. Jesus died, was buried, descended into hell and was raised bodily on the third day. Through Jesus' sinless life, death and resurrection, God's love for humanity is embodied, forgiveness is made available to all, sin's power of reciprocal violence and condemnation was defeated and the redemption of creation is assured.

Jesus befriended the poor and the outcast and brought healing to the sick and lost. Jesus judged the pride and idolatry of those who judged themselves righteous. Jesus called all to repent and receive God's love and sovereignty. Jesus taught true power is realized through service and acts of kindness and forgiveness. As head of the Church, Jesus provides the example, power and leadership for the family of God. As our judge, Jesus calls and empowers us to live sanctified lives marked by service, health, love, joy, power, humility, and an appetite for justice.

The Holy Spirit: I trust in the Holy Spirit the one promised by Christ to sustain, comfort, and guide us. It is the Holy Spirit who is continuing Christ's work of advancing God's kingdom in, through and in spite of ourselves. God's covenant community, the Church, was born at Pentecost and continues to embody and facilitate God's truth as we reach out in love to bring effectual healing, hope, justice and reconciliation to a broken and fragmented world. As the Church worships together and continues the mission of Christ, we see a glimpse of the Kingdom to come. The Holy Spirit reveals God's will and power through general revelation, accessible to all. The Spirit further speaks in special ways through: The study and proclamation of the Word of God, the Bible which is the authoritative recording of and inspired witness to God's revelation to the world, culminating in Jesus Christ; The celebration of baptism, a welcoming party for the baptized, thrown by the community of faith, and hosted by the Spirit, marking us as God's own; and The celebration of the Lord's Supper, which provides the family of God a visual and tactile opportunity to commune with Christ's suffering and death, and to touch and taste the grace, forgiveness, assurance, love and unity we crave and receive from God.

I also subscribe to *The Book of Confessions* of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as faithful witnesses to the truth of Scripture concerning faith, doctrine, church government, and the mission for Christ's Church; to the faith of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church; and to the Reformed Tradition and its affirmation of "the church reformed, always reforming according to the Word of God and call of the Spirit."