

## Statement of Faith for Paul Davidson

I believe in the Holy Trinity identified by God, the Father, creator of all that was and is and is to be; Jesus, who through his life showed us how to live and through his suffering, death and resurrection we can know salvation; and the Holy Spirit, breathed upon us and through us so that we may better live as disciples of him, sharing his message of love, grace and mercy to all. Realizing God's presence and accepting his gifts gives me comfort throughout my life's trials and tribulations.

I believe, that God created us in his image and we were without sin. But when humankind fell from grace, the precedent was established for all of humankind to sin. Because of this fall from grace, all people will continue to sin throughout their lives and that no one sin is, in God's eyes, greater or lesser than any other sin, and that until we accept God's gift of redemption and forgiveness from our sins, we remain lost and lonely.

Our redemption was made possible through God's love and mercy for us and through the life, teachings, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. His teachings, which are found in God's inspired Holy Word, give us an example of how God wants us to live our lives; lives that are full of love, grace and mercy for all people, even those who do not share our beliefs and who we might otherwise call enemies. He reminds us that none of us are without sin and therefore no one should "cast a stone" at another in punishment.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to help us better live our lives and to understand God's wishes for us. I believe that when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, we are better capable of living lives more reflective of God.

I believe the body of Christ is the one, holy catholic and apostolic church which has been given, from Jesus Christ, the gifts necessary to be his body. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. As the body of Christ, the Church is a place for hope and celebration of a new beginning in God's new creation. It is a community of reconciliation where one finds love and unity.

I believe that the Statements of Faith and Confessions of the Church, as found in our Book of Confessions, are statements that helped to identify our church community's beliefs and help to dictate its actions and how it approaches Scripture. As our church family relies on these documents of faith and understanding, so do I.

I believe in the two Holy Sacraments of the Reformed Church as the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which, "...God seals believers in redemption, renews their identity as the people of God and marks them for service." (W-3.3601) In the Sacrament of Baptism we receive new life in Christ through the water of Baptism. In the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, when we are given the bread and the wine, we are given the life giving and renewing presence of Christ.

I believe that Christ will come again to judge all, the living and the dead and that this will not be the end but a new beginning for all who have received Christ into their hearts and lives.