

## Statement of Faith for Susan Trigger

I belong to God. I have experienced God in moments of quiet prayer and Bible study, in the midst of a congregation at worship, in moments of crisis and moments of joy. God has touched the deepest part of my soul.

As a Reformed and Presbyterian Christian I am grounded in Scripture, informed by the tradition of the Church, nurtured with the community of faith, involved in ministry with all believers, and seeking justice for all. These have helped me to grow in my understanding of God, whose very essence is love – profound, unfailing, and unconditional. Through love humanity was created in the image of God. Through God's image within us, we offer love. God invites humanity to enter into a covenant relationship requiring us to "seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

Humanity has failed to carry out its part of the covenant. Throughout history we have chosen power and greed over God. We have allowed fear to control us. We have failed to see ourselves as God sees us. These separate us from God. Whatever separates us from God is sin. Yet like a loving parent who forgives a wayward child, God embraces us with forgiveness over and over again. I believe this forgiveness is our salvation, the transforming power of love that shapes us into God's faithful children.

At just the right time, God came to dwell with us on earth in the person of Jesus the Christ, fully human yet fully divine. Jesus embodied the salvation of God. He challenged people to follow his radical example of grace, mercy, justice and love. His life, teaching, death and resurrection revealed the depth of God's love for us and offered to all the promise of redemption and new life.

God's Holy Spirit dwells in and among us, encouraging and nudging us. The Spirit empowers us with gifts that are both personal and communal. I believe that all are called to use their gifts; joining God in moving a broken and sinful world toward God's perfect kingdom. Wherever Christians gather together to do God's work, there is Church. The Church bears witness to Christ when love for God and love for others shines. The church disciples by telling God's story and welcoming all. The story is alive when we take God's love into the world; healing the sick, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and uplifting the downtrodden.

In the celebration of the Sacraments, Baptism and Communion, water, wine, and bread become messengers of God's sacrificial love in Christ. They remind us of the promises God has made to us, the promises the community makes to nurture, and the promises that we have made to live as Jesus taught. At font and table our souls are cleansed and fed. For these gifts, God simply asks us to respond by being messengers for Christ in what we say and what we do. The Sacraments celebrate the one who carries us throughout our lives. In death our baptism is complete and we are joined with God; for in life and in death we belong to God.