

## **Statement of Faith**

### **Randall T. Clayton**

I believe in God who is author, redeemer, and sustainer of all that exists. God continues to create today as God brings the heavens and the earth to the fullness which God has ordained.

I believe in Jesus Christ who is God's own Son and my Savior, who is fully God and fully human. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we see God's love; we see how we are to live; we are forgiven and redeemed.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who is God's loving and enlivening presence in the world today. Through the Spirit's power, we receive assurances of God's loving presence; we find the motivation to be God's people; we discover hope in the midst of a world marred by sin.

I believe God calls people to join together in communities of faith. Within the church, we worship and glorify God; we are strengthened for service; we are nourished in fellowship; we hear the Good News of the Gospel.

I believe God has given us two sacraments which are signs and seals of God's promises. In Baptism and in the Lord's Supper we are assured of God's presence; we are empowered for service; we are given hope for the present and for the future; we are enabled to remember and to give thanks for all of God's mighty actions; our ties to the community of faith are strengthened.

I believe God has given us Scripture which serves as a witness to God's revelation and love through the eons, and which serves as God's revelation today. The Old and New Testaments are authoritative for our faith and practice.

I believe God calls each person to love and to serve. God has given each of us unique talents, abilities, and gifts to be used to help take away the pain, injustice, and oppression which is rampant in the world. Being followers of Christ does not allow us to escape the agonies present in the world but pushes us to confront all that is in opposition to the rule of love known in God. As God loves all creation, breaks down barriers, and accepts us as we are; so too, God calls us to strive to do the same.

I believe God is at work in the world today. Even though there is evil, pain, injustice, and hatred in the world, the hope of God in Christ enables us to join with Christians across the centuries and around the globe in proclaiming the Good News that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and that Christ will come again.