

Ruth E. Sanders

Statement of Faith

1 I believe in the Triune God who is the one True and Holy God. I understand God the Father to be
2 our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. I believe that we are made in the image of God and that
3 God is Love. To reveal His love in a way that we human beings could comprehend it more fully,
4 God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus became fully human while he took on flesh and yet remained fully
5 Divine. Because of sin and the damaging separation from God that it causes us, Jesus died on the
6 cross. Jesus knew no sin but took on our sin and sacrificed his life for our redemption. His
7 precious blood not only redeems us but restores us into right relationship with God. Jesus rose
8 from death to life and lives eternally with the Father. We shall one day also. I believe that the
9 Holy Spirit was given to us when Jesus ascended to the Father so that we would have an advocate,
10 guide and comforter to remain with us and remind us of God's presence with us.

11
12 I believe that God's Word breathed Creation into being, was lived out through his Son while on
13 earth in human flesh and now lives through us, as followers of Jesus Christ, by the power of the
14 Holy Spirit. His Written Word in Holy Scripture is the authority by which we know of His love and
15 plans for us. I believe that Scripture is the inspired Word of God which weaves history with story
16 to inform and form us.

17
18 We have the privilege and joy of being connected with our Creator in prayer. Prayer is listening
19 and talking. It is praising God and petitioning. Prayer is sharing with God the intimacy of our lives.
20 I believe it is the desire of God to "know us" and to "be known" in relationship with us.

21
22 I believe that through Worship and the Sacraments we receive the strength to live out our call as
23 the Body of Christ. The Church, this mystical body, is divinely connected with God in and through
24 the sacraments which were instituted by Jesus himself. I believe that the sacrament of Baptism
25 is God's gift of grace and also God's call for us to respond to that grace. Our Baptism calls us to
26 repentance, faithfulness, and discipleship throughout our lives. Communion is a meal provided
27 for us to help assist us in remembering Jesus's sacrificial life and death. Jesus' life and his death
28 bring us back into right relationship with God. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of continuous
29 growth, nourishment and new life. Jesus, the Divine host welcomes us to be nourished and the
30 Holy Spirit is present in this meal. We are empowered to remember to seek reconciliation with
31 Christ, an act that compels reconciliation also with one another. Seeking forgiveness and offering
32 forgiveness is a vital component of living into the fullness of God's love.

33
34 The Church has been called to live into the Great Commandment of loving God and loving
35 neighbor. The Church has also been called to fulfill the Great Commission of going out into the
36 world to share the message of the Gospel. Sharing the message and love of Jesus Christ is a
37 reflection of being his disciples who are doers of the Word and not hearers only. Ultimately, as
38 people of Faith, we are called to heal the sick, touch the broken-hearted and feed the multitudes,
39 just like Jesus did. The outrageous and radical love of God, given through the salvific work of
40 Jesus Christ his Son on the cross, is relevant and continues to have effect on the world today.
41 That effect comes through us by the power of the Holy Spirit who now accompanies us.