

STATEMENT OF FAITH
William E. Good

I believe in the sovereign and triune God, the Creator of all things, existing *out of* all time and space and *acting upon* all time and space to bring about God's good ends. This God is revealed to us through the Word of Holy Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, working as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. In Scripture we see that God has acted purposively and creatively throughout Creation history in constancy and love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, Son and substance of God - one man, fully God and fully human. As the fullest self-revelation of God, Christ is the sole Redeemer and Reconciler of a fallen Creation to its Creator. It is through Christ's sinless life, sacrificial death, and saving resurrection that this hope was made possible. Having been raised from death, Christ presently lives and reigns in heaven awaiting the fullness of God's time to come again in power and glory and to reign over the ultimate Kingdom of God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the third being of the trinity, who works to awaken all Creation to the truth of God in Christ Jesus and who animates humankind to respond to God's life-giving and unmerited grace through the life of faith expressed in worship and sacrificial love. It is through the sanctifying work of the Spirit that we are able to experience the presence of God and all the blessing and calling that attends it.

I believe that a Holy God created human beings in God's own image, inspiring life with the breath of God's own spirit, so that humankind might enjoy relationship with its Creator. Through human *hubris* sin entered the world, leaving humankind suffering under sin's penalty, which is the pain and death of alienation from God. In order that sin might be rendered powerless and reconciliation be made possible, a loving God offered Jesus Christ, God's own Son, as a free and sufficient sacrifice of atonement. Relying solely on Christ's saving efficacy and the power of the Holy Spirit, humanity is able to experience freedom from sin and peace with God.

I believe that Christ has called the Church into being so that his reign might be extended to all Creation through the Word of God proclaimed, the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper faithfully administered, and worship carried out decently and in order. In the Power of the Holy Spirit the Church is bound together in community to be the presence of Christ to the fallen world and to go forth as ambassadors for Christ, charged with Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

I believe that the Holy Scriptures are the authoritative and inspired Word of God, mediated through the hearts and hands of Spirit-led humans to reveal the truth of God to the world. They are guidance for the Church and direction for the believer. In the power of the Holy Spirit the Scriptures instruct, build up, test and comfort the people of God and bear vital and compelling witness to God's character and God's good intentions for Creation.