



STATEMENT OF FAITH: A COMMON CONFESSION OF THE GOSPEL

The Gospel and the Triune God: We rejoice in the grace of the Triune God, who has forgiven our sins and given us redemption in Jesus Christ. We proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, who became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, lived a life of perfect obedience to his heavenly Father, died on the cross to atone for the sins of the world, and rose bodily in accordance with the Scriptures. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father and he will return again to judge the living and the dead and to establish his eternal Kingdom. God the Holy Spirit draws us to faith in Jesus Christ, through whom alone we are justified and found acceptable by God the Father.

Christian Obedience: We confess Jesus as the Lord to whom all authority in heaven and earth has been given by the Father. We commit ourselves to follow him and love him above all else and to conform our lives to his example and teaching by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Scripture: We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God written and to contain all things necessary for salvation. The Bible is to be translated, read, preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading.

Mission and Missions: We gladly accept the Great Commission of the risen Lord to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of all nations. The mission of the Church includes both evangelistic proclamation and deeds of love and service. We commit ourselves and our resources to this mission, both locally and to the uttermost parts of the earth. We affirm our particular responsibility to know, love, and serve the Lord in our local settings and contexts. We take seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to uphold and advocate for justice in society, and to seek relief and empowerment of the poor and needy.

Ecumenical Vision: We are committed to the unity of the body of Christ in nature and mission. We believe the unity of the Church is core to the Gospel message, and therefore, in the same manner as our Lord and Savior (John 17:20-21), we pray and work towards the union of all the divided branches of Christ's body.