

## **Statement of Faith**

### **Dallas A. Bradel**

I believe in one holy, triune God who is sovereign over history and eternity. God created the heavens and the earth, with human beings, male and female, as the pinnacle of creation, together made in God's image. God called them to care for creation, working and resting, mirroring and honoring God. When the woman and man disobeyed God, sin separated them from God's presence.

I believe that in the person of Jesus Christ, God is reconciling the world, restoring us through faith in Christ to harmonious relationship with God and with one another. As God in human flesh, Jesus was tempted but did not sin. He preached and taught, healed and comforted, fed people physically and spiritually. Jesus suffered death on the cross in place of sinful humanity. God raised Jesus from the dead, breaking the bonds of sin and death so that through faith in Jesus we might be reconciled to God. After his resurrection, Jesus commissioned his followers to spread this news near and far. He ascended into heaven, and will return at the end of history to judge the living and dead, and restore creation in a new heaven and earth. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to reside within believers, comforting us, equipping us, encouraging us, and stirring us to live holy, joy-filled, faithful and responsive lives.

The Holy Spirit also works through the sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper, offering us the grace of God by setting apart common elements to the sacred use of demonstrating God's saving grace to us. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promise to us that we are God's children. In Baptism we are reminded that God has reached out to claim us, has called us each by name, and cleansed us of our sin. The sacrament of The Lord's Supper is an act of thanksgiving to God and remembrance of Christ's completed work on the cross. It is a proclamation of Christ's death with the promise of his future coming. The Lord's Supper represents the fellowship of believers with Christ, calling upon the Holy Spirit to lift us into Christ's presence and bind us with Christ and one another.

I believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, providing us with a unique and authoritative witness to God's redemptive work in history, which hinges on Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit provides the guidance we need to interpret the Bible so that we may apply it in our daily decisions and be encouraged as we pursue God throughout our lives.

The Church is the fellowship of believers, Christ's hands, feet, and body for serving others and worshiping God until Christ returns to earth. The Church was divinely instituted by Christ to carry out God's will by the power of the Holy Spirit. Worship is at the center of our community life, centered in the living Word of God in Jesus Christ and witnessed to in the Bible. I believe that Christ's Church is the vehicle by which God's work of reconciliation and redemption is carried out. As a follower of Jesus, I am convinced that our call is to be ambassadors for Christ, engaging in works of compassion and education that point beyond themselves to Jesus Christ. The Church as the family of God welcomes, nurtures, loves and equips each individual for mature, loving service and mission in the world.