

Statement of Faith
Rev. Jeffrey Weenink

My greatest comfort in life and death is that I belong to the one, triune, living and eternal God who is my creator and sustainer. I experience God's providence as one whose direction unfolds gently, leads graciously, pardons frequently and surprises continually. I profess Jesus Christ as my personal savior. His mission was and is to reconcile a sinful world. His life, death and resurrection is the ultimate expression of God's redemptive, reconciling reach to a fallen humanity showing the truth about God, ourselves and the ways of faithfulness. I am created in the image of my Sovereign Creator God who calls me into a covenant community and to be actively at work among a priesthood of believers.

I believe that Theology matters ~ I believe in the centrality of God's word, divinely inspired and the authoritative witness revealing God's redemptive plan for the world showing the way to salvation, service to others, and unity in Christ. The Confessions underscore that the witness of the church is to be reformed and reforming. They clarify belief and articulate faith in particular times and circumstances while remaining instructive for the church today. The Sacraments reinforce and nourish faith. They are visible signs of indwelling grace sealing our redemption, renewing our identity as a covenant community, and calling us to commitment, service and action. The Holy 'trinity' manifests life in community; mutuality, uniqueness, interdependence and love. The Holy Spirit is the abiding, accessible, divine presence bringing counsel, comfort, energy, new life binding me to the body of Christ. My spiritual quest deepens and broadens through discernment, dialogue, openness and prayer.

I believe that Church matters ~ I believe the Church can be a warm, accepting community where questions and difference are encouraged and accepted as a living witness to Christ's mission of reconciliation. Our call is to be hospitable, not limiting; faithful, not perfect; prophetic, not judging. We are all fallible human beings striving to do God's perfect will. I embrace the essential tenets of the Reformed Tradition, the principles of Presbyterianism, its polity complete with checks and balances as a means to ordered ministry.

I believe that mission and ministry matters ~ God has called me to a ministry of word and sacrament, to promote the great ends of the church and serve the living Christ in faith and

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Committee on Ministry
September 22, 2021

practice. My salvation comes not by who I am or what I do but by faith in God's unfettered grace revealed in Jesus Christ. Therefore, I with God's help:

- repent of my shortcomings and offenses against God, my sisters and brothers.
- acknowledge my need for the counsel of colleagues in ministry and the wisdom of our tradition.
- pray my gifts increase and contribute to a higher good.
- humbly hope my limitations be honored with compassion.
- claim my baptism.
- seek the sustenance of bread and cup.
- affirm my ordination vows.