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## Statement of Faith

Rev. Stan Martin

I believe in one God, Creator, the sovereign Abba, whose love is the source of life. I believe in one God who hears the cries of the slaves, suffers with the oppressed, and delivers creation out of enslavement chains.

I embrace the present Reign of God revealed in the Word of God. God is revealed in the living Word, lived out in and through the Church. I embrace the witness of God's Rule in the Body of Christ.

I believe in one God, the Son of Abba, Jesus the Messiah, who in divine-mystery being fully God was born into full humanity. Jesus of Nazareth suffered for the least – was abused for the lost – was rejected for the oppressed. Jesus lived his call under the domination of the Emperor, the abuse of religious authority and the power of death. He was crucified for what he proclaimed in word and action. This Jesus – our salvation – rose from the grave, defeated death, and lives. In Jesus is life.

I embrace the coming Reign of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. In this Reign of Righteousness, humanity is healed, delivered, and loved into right relationship with Creator and creation. I believe that this is the mission of every Christ-follower: to proclaim this Good News that God's Reign has come and is coming. I believe that this is revealed in the Community of Faith.

I believe in one God, the Holy Spirit, who in communion with the Abba and the Son, leads into a new reality of equality for all humankind before God. I believe that the Holy Spirit teaches, comforts, and empowers followers of Christ to suffer with the suffering, work against injustice and stand together for God's peace, mercy, understanding, love, grace, and fellowship of all humankind.

I embrace the present and coming Reign of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of God, the breath of creation – the Spirit of Christ, the fire of grace. I believe that the Holy Spirit empowers the seeking of God's Reign come: equality, justice, peace, and love for one another and the Triune God. I believe that the Holy Spirit calls us into the ongoing proclamation of God's coming Reign of Righteousness.

I believe in the universal Church which stands as witness to the world of the one who is faithful and true – the deliverer, redeemer, and sustainer. I believe the Church is that community by which we experience and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ and that through the Body of Christ we proclaim the present Reign of God and courageously seek the Reign of God that is coming: "Christ died. Christ arose. Christ is coming again."

I embrace the Reign of God revealed in the proclaimed, living, and written Word of God. I believe in baptism we are called into a new life and that sharing in the Lord's Supper unites us with all that Christ was, is, and will be – from death to life to the celebration of the joyous feast. I believe that because God comes and calls, we may turn to God, praising the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

