

Statement of Faith – James Pazan

I believe in God of the Old and New Testaments, creator of all things, revealed to us in the three persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that Jesus is God's eternal son, who is both fully God and fully human. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus through his ministry of preaching, performing miracles and living in relationship to God modeled righteousness and proclaimed his divine nature. Jesus faced all temptations and lived without sin in order to atone for our sins on the cross. In His resurrection Jesus is our hope. I believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains us and teaches us as we faithfully respond to God's word for our lives. The Holy Spirit is our source of strength, joy, nourishment, guidance, and knowledge. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we faithfully serve God.

I believe that humanity was created perfect but sinned, and is broken, facing death. Without being reconciled to God, all humanity will perish. I believe that God is gracious and desires to redeem all people from their sin. God has chosen to save us through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. Only through His death are we redeemed from our sins and receive God's salvation by grace through faith. We are called to respond to this gift with faith and repentance.

I believe that God has, through Scripture, called us to live our lives in a manner fitting to the gospel so that we may be witnesses. I believe that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God given authority through the power of the Holy Spirit for all time. Scripture is God's self-revelation to the world, guiding the Church in its faithful exposition of the gospel.

I believe that God has given us two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, as signs and seals of God's saving grace. In the two sacraments we experience God's mystery through presence of the Holy Spirit. The water of baptism through the Holy Spirit signifies washing away of the old and bringing in new life in Christ. In Baptism we participate in a covenant with God, sealing our lives to God's kingdom. In the Lord's Supper Jesus taught us that the bread and the wine represent his body given and his blood, signifying a new covenant between God and all of Humanity. In the Lord's Supper we proclaim our faith in Jesus' work of salvation and are reminded of our call to reconcile with one another.

I believe that the church is a witness to Christ's resurrection and salvation, and that it has been called to go and make disciples of all nations. I believe in the priesthood of all believers, that the whole body of Christ has been given different gifts for the purpose of serving the church and witnessing to God's salvation in Jesus Christ. As the body of Christ we are sent into the world to seek God's peace, justice and reconciliation. I believe that Jesus will return, establishing his kingdom, bringing to completion the work that he has already begun.

Presbytery of Santa Barbara
Stated Meeting
September 21, 2019