

Statement of Faith for Rev. Sean M. Chow

I believe in God, the three in one; God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To grasp the fullness of God the entirety of the Trinity is needed.

I believe in God, who is the creator of heaven and earth. God has a perfect plan for us, but we choose to act in our own ambitions and turn from God's plan. This sin has invaded our relationships, with God and each another. Isolation and distance from God was the result. God reached out and established a covenant relationship with the people of Israel, but as our own selfish ambitions grew the isolation from God continued. Instead of being separated from creation, God's response was one of redemption.

I believe in Jesus Christ. The division between God and us caused sadness. In God's sorrow a path of mercy was chosen for us rather than separation and death. It is through an abiding faith in Jesus Christ that we are redeemed. On the cross Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the world. Christ died, was buried and on the third day rose again. With this act, He conquered death and made it possible for us to be in communion with God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who maintains our continual fellowship with God. When Jesus ascended into heaven, we were not left alone. God sent the Holy Spirit, who gives us guidance and power. The Holy Spirit brings counseling and comfort, spurs us to action, and to deeper discipleship. Through the Holy Spirit we become witnesses for Christ throughout the world. The Spirit works within us to become "part of the world but not of it".

The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the mysteries of our faith; they are the signs of the real power and presence of God. In Baptism we remember God's faithfulness and grace given to all people. Through Baptism we submit our lives to Christ and arise to Christ's promises. Through the Lord's Supper we experience the real presence of Christ, give thanks, and reconcile ourselves to God and to each other.

I believe in the authority of the Word of God written, our Bible. It is through the Holy Spirit that God's Word continues to be illuminated to us today. God is revealed in Scripture. It is the final authority for salvation and the life of faith. Our reformed tradition has been blessed with the historical confessions of our faith. It is these confessions that help us guide us and interpret Scripture in today's world.

I believe the Holy Spirit calls and gives life into the church. The church and its members are to be more than simply a gathering to worship. It must also send its members into the world; as God sent Jesus, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit sends us into our own Samaria, Jerusalem, and the ends of the earth.

I believe that through God we can have hope. This life is corrupted our selfishness. We live in a place that is without hope for a brighter future. As Christians living in this corrupted broken world, we are called to reach others, and share that there is a brighter future.