

Statement of Faith – Jason T. Micheli

God is the creator of the heavens and the earth, the redeemer of a world gone astray, and the transforming Spirit who empowers new beginnings. God is one essence in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God—the Holy One of Israel, who alone is worthy of our praise—loves in freedom, lives in community, and wills others to do the same. God created the world, forming humans—male and female—in the image of God, and declared creation good.

Jesus Christ is the second person of the trinity. He is fully human and fully divine. In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God, through the Holy Spirit, brings liberation, reconciliation, and new life to a people alienated from God, our world, and ourselves.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. It is through the Spirit that we encounter Christ anew. The Spirit is the liberating, transforming, renewing, sustaining, enlivening, communal presence of God that justifies us by grace through faith, enabling us to live into the new life of God in Jesus Christ.

The sacraments re-present to us the personal, redemptive encounter of God and humanity in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Through them our faith is strengthened and we respond to the promises of God. Baptism is a sign of our transformation into the new life made possible by God in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, and of our incorporation into the body of Christ. The Lord's Supper symbolizes Christ that we might grow into communion with him as he sustains and strengthens us, filling us with new life.

The authority of scripture is in its testimony, through the Holy Spirit, to the truth of God manifest in Christ Jesus, the Word of God incarnate. Scripture gathers up our otherwise confused knowledge of God and directs us toward the true God, the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of the world. The truth of the scripture is confirmed by the testimony of the Holy Spirit in the life and fellowship of the community of faith.

It is through the church that we draw near to and render praise to God through the preaching of the gospel and the celebration of the sacraments. The church is a communion in which we find new life and a transformed way of being human through the grace of God in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. The church's mission is to be a community that lives out of God's redeeming grace, witnessing to the new life given by God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, and actively seeking to welcome others into that community. The church is sent as God's reconciling community to labor against the enmities which separate humans from God and from each other through ministries of compassion and justice.

As members of this community of faith we strive to love in freedom, and to live in communion, responding to the grace of God given in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit as we await the completion of the creative and redemptive act of God.