

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

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Statement of Faith I believe in one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God created humankind in His own image, that we might reflect His likeness through our obedience and holiness, and be His stewards over the good creation He has made. Humankind woefully fell into a state of sin, which affected all of life. We were lost in this sin and estranged from our Creator God. Because of His great love for us, God took mercy upon us and initiated a plan of redemption. The climax of this redemptive work came in the form of God's Son - fully God and fully man - sent to bear our sins and die on the cross to purify us of our uncleanness. Through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we have been saved from eternal separation from our Creator God, and can approach Him in repentance and be saved to eternal life. God has sent his Holy Spirit to guide and counsel us, as the community of believers bears witness to the Kingdom of God. I believe that the Holy Scriptures are divine revelation and bear ultimate authority over our lives (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Church is used and directed by God to accomplish His purposes through faithful preaching of the Word, proper administration of the sacraments, serving and encouraging one another to spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:1-16), and sharing the Good News of Christ's love and grace with others (John 20:21). I strive to be an agent of God's redemption: stewarding God's creation (Gen. 1:28), serving His people, claiming the Lordship of Christ in all areas of life, and striving toward social and cultural change. I seek to live the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples in His name. My core identity is as a daughter of God, Who is my hope and my salvation.

Why I am a Presbyterian I am a Presbyterian because I believe that all of life is under the Lordship of Christ. This informs my worldview and the way that I teach the Bible's meta-narrative to others. I believe along with this denomination that our sovereign Creator God entered into a series of covenants with His people, reflected in the authoritative pages of Scripture. I align myself with the confessional nature of the PC(USA); as written in the Confession of 1967, "So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord." We confess to the world our faith so that God is exalted and so that we are conscious of our sin and responsibilities. The liturgical aspect of worship is important as we proclaim and then respond to God's Word and His call on our lives. THE RHYTHM OF LITURGY IS LIKE A GENTLE, STEADY RAIN WHICH SLOWLY YET SURELY SOAKS INTO OUR LIVES. I seek to live life in community with others, and the aspect of community is woven throughout our denomination; in our confessions, public worship, and service together we lay claim to the New Testament truth that we are a priesthood of believers. Our church government is connectional and inter-dependent to underscore this truth. The orderly nature of the way we ARE INTENDED TO conduct church business appeals to me, ALTHOUGH IT IS SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO PRAYERFULLY AND CONTINUALLY JOURNEY TOWARD AS A BODY. BY HIS SPIRIT, God's people CAN truly work together, with grace and despite tensions, EVEN WHEN THEY WORK OUT THEIR CHRISTIAN BELIEFS IN GOOD AND MISSIONAL, YET DIFFERENT WAYS. Finally, in our history, Presbyterians have sought to actively express love and justice in the issues of various ages - creation care, oppression, injustice - and I believe this is a direct working-out of our creational mandate in Genesis 1:28.