

Project Patch Statement of Christian Faith

WE BELIEVE IN THE AUTHORITY OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

The Old and New Testaments are given to us by divine inspiration and are the written Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice; to be thoughtfully and reverently interpreted as the Lord speaks through them in living power.

WE BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

God has revealed himself to be the living and true God, perfect in love and righteous in all his ways; one in essence, existing eternally in the three persons of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE IN THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

The only mediator between God and humanity is Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, conceived by the Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and fully sharing in our humanity with a life of perfect obedience; by his death in our place, he revealed divine love, upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God; having redeemed us from sin, he was resurrected from the grave, victorious over death and he ascended into heaven where at God's right hand he intercedes for his people and rules as Lord over us.

WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit through the proclaimed gospel, renews our hearts, persuades us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord; that by the Spirit we are forgiven of all our sins, justified by faith through Christ alone our Savior, given new life, and gives gifts to all believers to be used in ministry.

WE BELIEVE GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN TO US

God has revealed himself in his creation and in the events of redemptive history where his work is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word, who is made known to us by the Holy Spirit in sacred Scripture.

WE BELIEVE HUMANKIND IS IN NEED OF GOD'S GRACE

God made us in his own image that we might have fellowship with him; because of sin, we are estranged from God; and apart from God's grace, we are incapable of being united with him.

WE BELIEVE WE ARE CALLED INTO GOD'S FAMILY AND HIS WORK

We believe God graciously calls and adopts us into his family, enabling us to call him Father, live by the Spirit, grow in faith, keep his commandments, and live and do good works that glorify God.

WE BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH

God, by his Word and Spirit, created The Church with Christ as head, calling us into the fellowship of Christ's Body so that we are spiritually one with the people of God in all nations and all ages. The Church is summoned by Christ to gather to worship, pray, preach the gospel, make disciples, care for people, strive for social justice, and relieve human distress and need.

WE BELIEVE IN THE UNIQUE CALL OF SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

God calls us to welcome children in His name. Our task is to guide them on a path to hope, abundant life, and God-ordained purpose.

WE BELIEVE IN THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

God's redemptive purposes will be consummated by the return of Christ in the resurrection, judgment, and the establishment of his glorious Kingdom.

NOTE: Simplified and adapted by Project Patch and David L. Coleman from the Statement of Faith of Fuller Theological Seminary, 1991.