

ATTACHMENT B – Statement of Faith

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Kim Strunz

I believe in One God, who is of one substance but distinct in three different persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All are God in different persons and equal in power and glory. Jesus Christ, the second person of the trinity, is both God's son and Godself in human form. Therefore, Christ has two natures, one divine and one human but without sin. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity, reveals God and leads me to respond to that revelation.

God created the universe and established a covenant with human creations that God loves. God made them and me in God's own image and to be in relationship with God and others. God's tremendous love for me is demonstrated by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Adam's disobedience led to the sinful human condition and self-interest. God required payment for my sins, but because they are so great, only Christ, the perfect human without sin could pay for them. His sacrifice allows me to have redemption and everlasting life. I receive grace through my faith in Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. After Christ died, he ascended to the heavenly kingdom where he reigns as Lord, until he returns for our final judgment.

The Holy Spirit forms us into one body of Christ, the Church which has one faith, one Spirit, and worships one God. During worship I praise God, listen to the Word, partake of the sacraments, pray, enjoy fellowship, and receive comfort and strength to live in a sinful world. The mission of the church is to preach the true Word of God from scripture and correctly administer the sacraments of Christ, as they relate to the Word. It also serves as God's community for reconciliation of those people separated from God and from each other.

I believe that God's self-revelation in Christ that comes to me through scripture is the final authority of faith and practice. This Word of God was conveyed to its authors through the Holy Spirit. The message in scripture is true and applicable to my life today.

There are two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and both seal God's same covenant with me in two different ways. When I was baptized as an infant I entered into a covenant with God. By water I was sealed into a covenant of grace and engrafted into Christ. It signified my entrance into the Church, washing away of my sin, and rebirth. Through my baptism, I was publicly received into the Church to share in its life and ministry.

The Lord's Supper allows me as a faithful disciple to be spiritually fed by eating the bread and drinking the cup which represent the body and blood of Christ. Mysteriously, the Holy Spirit is present as the elements are spiritually communicated to me by faith. Whenever I receive the Lord's Supper I reflect upon Christ's death for my sins; my spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; my thankfulness to God, and any need for my reconciliation with God or another.