

Robert Bardeen, Statement Of Faith

I believe in the living God - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - eternal and everlasting. Creator of the heavens and the earth, Maker of visible and invisible, Sustainer of all that is, and Ruler of all that will be, God the Father is worthy of our worship and praise. We honor God alone.

I believe Jesus, the only Son of God, is the Lord of all. Made incarnate by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. He offered his life, by God's will, to be the perfect sacrifice on behalf of all humans, throughout all time. His life, death, resurrection, and ascension offer hope to all humanity. Christ now sits as our High Priest, advocating to the Father on our behalf. We anticipate the day he will return again.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who invites, guides, comforts, convicts, and transforms those who yield, by the grace of God. The Holy Spirit empowers all who believe and desires for us to use the gifts provided.

I believe all are sinners. All fall short of what God requires. It is only through a relationship with Jesus Christ that we have salvation and redemption. God, who is good, sees the good in us - calling us the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and desires good to reign instead of sin.

I believe in the gathering of all who receive Christ as Lord and are united together as Christ's Body, the church - of which Jesus is the head. We come together to worship as an expression of our love for the Savior; we fellowship together, we pray with obedience, study scripture, and serve with heart and soul. The church is entrusted with the task of being the hands of Christ - reaching out to the lost, the lonely, and the forsaken. Through compassion and sacrifice, we worship the Lord with true fellowship and devotion. We celebrate life through the remembrance of the two sacraments given to the church, the Lord's Supper and Baptism, signs of God's covenant relationship and redeeming love. God claims us in the waters of Baptism, and feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. We are united with Christ's dying and rising, and by grace, we know God's promises.

I believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given to us by God. They are divinely inspired and wholly trustworthy as the authority in all matters of faith and practice. The confessions and creeds of the church give witness to scripture expressed in historical situations - and serve to guide us even today.

I believe the community of believers has mission to do in the world and cannot do so without the transforming power of the God's grace. Grace is truly amazing: through grace we are justified, we are saved, and we are held together. And through grace we can love because we have been loved first by God through Christ on the cross.

Robert Bardeen, Biographical Sketch

I was born in Pasadena, CA, baptized at St. Andrews Presbyterian, Redondo Beach, CA, received the call to enter the ministry while attending Good Shepherd Presbyterian, CA (new church development in the old Los Angeles Presbytery), and decided to attend Princeton Seminary because my home pastor and college chaplain both graduated from Princeton.

My wife, Joyce, and I met and were married while both seminary students (she received a MA in Christian Education from Princeton). We have three children and eleven grand children.

We have enjoyed each call in forty-three years of ordained ministry. God has called us to serve in large and small churches across America. Here's a brief account of the locations, starting from the current position:

Interim, First Presbyterian Church, Yuma, CO, 190 members, town, 2014 to current
Interim, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Peoria, IL, 245 members, small city, 2013 -2014
Pastor, Westfield Presbyterian Church, New Castle, PA, 400 members, country, 2003-2012
Pastor, The Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, KS, 450 members, college town, 1989-2003
Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Salinas, CA, 1,500 members, 1980-1989
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Marion, IN, 350 members, 1976-1980
Chaplain, Southwest State University, Marshall, MN, small college town, 1974-1976
Pastor, Ecumenical Parish, Deep River, IA, 350 members, small town, 1972-1974

I have also enjoyed serving in councils of our church. Currently in the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks, I am the Moderator of Committee on Ministry. We work with churches from the Nebraska Panhandle to the Colorado Plains to the Colorado Front Range just east of the Rockies. Our goals are simple: 1. Serve Christ; 2. Love the churches and their leaders; 3. Get organized to accomplish goals #1 and #2. This focus has helped us clarify our calling as COM liaisons with our theologically diverse churches.

I am grateful to the Lord Jesus Christ for the love and comfort we receive daily. The blessings from God are overwhelming and we are thankful. Recently in my daily devotions, I discovered the number of times the phrase "God's unfailing love" is used in the Psalms. A total of 45 times! God's love for the world never ends, and it is the source for our call to spread the Good News.