

**Robert Bayley**  
**Statement of Faith**

My core convictions are deeply but warmly held, their very imbedded nature causing me to be able to listen to and dialogue with those who would take exception to them.

**GOD:** One Creator God has been revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**JESUS:** God incarnate, he lived, died on the cross, conquered death, rose again, ascended into heaven and poured out the Holy Spirit, through whom Jesus is alive in the world. A personal, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit is a necessity, not an option, for eternal salvation.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Holy Spirit brings us to Christ, opens the Bible to us, changes our lives in an ongoing way, and gifts and empowers us for continuing the ministry of Jesus.

**THE BIBLE:** The mystery of inspiration and the complexities of transmission notwithstanding, the Bible is the Word of God into which I have leaned with the weight of my existence, and found it trustworthy in my own life as well in a wide range of ministry settings.

**THE CHURCH:** Ministry through the renewal movement in dozens of denominations in the US and overseas has caused my ecclesiology to evolve. I see the church as being made up of every individual who knows and trusts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**EVANGELISM, MISSIONS AND SOCIAL WITNESS:** These expressions of the ministry of Jesus are intended by him to be initiated and empowered by the Holy Spirit to the end that individuals are brought into a life-changing relationship with him as Lord and Savior.

**HUMAN SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE:** The Triune God created humans in two distinct yet overlapping expressions as male and female, to compliment and complete each other in marriage, and in non-sexually intimate social interaction. Broken by the fall, this Imago Dei is expressed in many nuanced ways from exclusively heterosexual to exclusively homosexual. The incarnation of the Godhead in a fully sexual human body in Jesus Christ, taken to the cross, opens the way for a healing of sexual perception and identity. We have much work to do to discern a fair, balanced and hopeful ministry to broken human sexuality.

**TIME:** I take at face value the Genesis account of the beginning of time, and believe deeply in the promised second coming of Christ at the end of time, but have focused on the present where people are seeking to decipher the meaning and purpose of their lives in the light of the Gospel. - Finally, I do what I do because I am deeply convinced that when we get to the end of the journey we will not be disappointed, but will be transitioned seamlessly into the eternal presence of Jesus Christ. "To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." Jude 24-25

## **Robert Bayley Biographical Sketch**

I was born and raised a Presbyterian in Los Angeles, baptized in First Presbyterian Church, El Monte, and confirmed in St. James Presbyterian Church in the Tarzana section of Los Angeles.

While my parents were not active churchgoers, I always had an interest in it, and in my teenage years sang in the choir, taught VBS, was active in the Westminster Fellowship youth group and our church-sponsored Boy Scout troop, receiving the God and Country award.

I also developed an increasingly intense spiritual curiosity and hunger, and during those same teenage years studied with a variety of cults and the occult. By my junior year of high school I had an eclectic world view and was thoroughly confused. During these years I remained very active in our Presbyterian church.

The summer before my senior year of high school my grandmother invited me to stay with her for a week. In the evenings we attended special meetings in her Pilgrim Holiness church, and on a Friday night in July, 1969 I heard a simple gospel message that turned my life upside down. I went forward to accept this Christ I did not understand and did not know I was seeking. When I got up from that time of prayer and being prayed for, I knew my life had been radically changed. From that day to this, 56 years later, there has never been a time when I have not been aware of Jesus Christ in my life. As a sidebar note, that same evening all the confusing and false teachings I had studied and embraced left me, never to return.

Seven months later I had an equally life-changing experience and encounter with the Holy Spirit in a Pentecostal meeting causing me to determine to go to a Christian college upon high school graduation. That fall I entered Southern California College, now Vanguard University, an Assemblies of God school. During my time there I spent a semester and a summer as an intern on the Colorado River Indian Reservation, and received two undergraduate degrees. I began preaching at age 18 in Indian churches across Arizona, and subsequently during the rest of my college years preached 30-50 times a year in churches across southern California.

My wife and I were married in 1966, and in 1967 we moved to an isolated Tlingit Indian village on Kupreanof Island off the coast of Alaska, where we served as school teachers. We then moved to Anchorage where I taught school and preached in area churches.

We moved to Princeton for seminary in 1970, and the journey through a number of churches from that day to this is found on my PIF. We moved more than I would have liked but some moves were due to health and educational reasons.

My wife is a native of Switzerland and a graduate of Alaska Pacific University, New York Theological Seminary in New York City, and the Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute of the Institutes of Religion and Health in New York City. She is ordained with the Disciples of Christ. She has been a state licensed professional counselor (LPC) for years until retirement.

We have three children - in Portland, Oregon, Chicago and Wilmington, NC. We have two grandchildren, one in Chicago and one in Wilmington.

My wife and I enjoy reading, going to movies and classical music concerts, and I also enjoy baseball, soccer and basketball games. All of us – my wife and I, our children and our grandchildren, are dual US/Swiss citizens.

We are back in Wilmington to be with our daughter and granddaughter who now live with us.