

Statement of Faith **Rev. John C. Hage**

In all eternity the triune God exists and loves as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God the Father, the sovereign Creator of the world. God created every human being, male and female of every race, equally in God's image. God created us to live and love in freedom, to regard others before ourselves, and to live in community. As God's creatures, human beings were given the gift of life and love but we rebelled against God. Because of our rebellion, God sent his Son Jesus Christ.

I believe in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was both human, and divine. Christ lived among us as the faithful witness of the transformative and limitless love of the triune God. Jesus Christ manifested and proclaimed the reign and love of God, was crucified and suffered the extreme depths of human pain by freely sacrificing his life. He did this in order that we may be redeemed and given new and eternal life in return because of his resurrection. As a result of belief in Jesus Christ and his resurrection, human beings are delivered from the powers of sin, evil, and death.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who is the advocate, comforter, sustainer, and sanctifier who has been promised to us until Christ's return. The same Spirit that is revealed through Holy Scripture claims us through confession of faith and Baptism and empowers us to live upright, consistent, and joyful lives in gratitude and service.

I believe that our lives are governed by the Holy Spirit through the engagement and proclamation of Scripture. Scripture is the unique and authoritative witness to the revelation of God.

I believe that there are two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both of these sacraments are visible signs of God's invisible grace. I believe that in Baptism we are united to Christ's death and resurrection. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are promised new life because our sins are forgiven and we are made clean. I believe in infant baptism because it witnesses to the truth that God's love and grace claims people before they are able to respond in faith. As a forgiven people, Baptism calls us to be a community which is formed by the Holy Spirit to love, support, and teach each other.

I believe in the Lord's Supper which seals and confirms Christ's promise to us that we are unified with Him in his death and resurrection. During the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit unites us with Jesus Christ whose body is in heaven. In the Lord's Supper we remember Christ and the sacrifice He made for us and we are united to each other as the communion of saints both past and present. It is as a community during the Lord's Supper that we also reaffirm the covenant between God and his people. We feel his presence while partaking in the elements, and we look forward to our glorious future with the Lord.

Biography **Rev. John C. Hage**

John Hage is an ordained teaching elder in the PCUSA with over 10 years of experience working at some of the largest churches in the PCUSA.

John graduated cum laude with a B.A. in political science with a minor in Spanish at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. John brings a wealth of international experience as he has studied in Quito, Ecuador as well as Salamanca, Spain. He has also done mission work in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Kenya and Brazil as well as in New Orleans, Indianapolis, and Durham.

After college John worked in business as a consultant in financial services and web development for Accenture and iXL in Charlotte, NC. During this valuable and productive time in business he felt a call to go to seminary and attended Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ earning his M.Div. in the spring of 2005. During seminary John was under care of the session of First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, NC. During his time in seminary John spent a summer studying at a seminary in Fortaleza, Brazil and working with a Presbyterian church there. During John's second year he was married to Anna Evenhouse.

Prior to his call to Mt. Pleasant John had been a Lake Fellow at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is a two year residency program where John led worship, preached, taught, and participated in four rotations focusing on missions, pastoral care, adult education, and evangelism. While John has enjoyed all these areas of ministry he and his wife have always had a passion for missions. During his tenure at Second Presbyterian church John began an alternative spring break mission trip for families in the church. He and his wife also worked with the youth, and young adults of the church. They also worked to reach out to the Hispanic community in Indianapolis.

John's most recent call to Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church has been a great opportunity to explore the churches missional identity. Over five years ago the session of MPPC made a decision to become a missional church. John led a group of elders to live out this strategic mission of the church.

- In the last 5 years local mission participation has grown 10 times.
- The church repurposed an existing house on their campus to become a hospital hospitality house named the Hope House. Five years later this lay run ministry has served over 800 families in need who have a loved one in critical care.
- MPPC sends 50-100 adults each year in short-term mission trips to work with existing partnerships in Kenya, Nicaragua, and Honduras.
- The church developed an alternative gift-giving campaign which has raised half-a million dollars in non-budgeted monies for mission locally and globally.
- MPPC has developed a mentoring program in the local elementary schools called i-beam. This partnership with the local schools has grown to include 4 different elementary schools, 12 churches, and over 250 mentors working each year.
- MPPC has created and launched the East Cooper Faith Network (ECFN) which brings local churches together to support I-beam, Fix-it (building program), and shared challenges in the local community.

John also worked on building community at MPPC. Four years ago he led a group of MPPC elders to create a small groups ministry within MPPC tied to the Lenten season. In the last few years between 400-800 adults have participated each year in this Lenten series.

John is also passionate about worship. He has preached and led worship in MPPC's traditional worship service as well as helping to cultivate and lead an alternative worship service at MPPC.

John is the author of two books. He co-wrote *Called to Life: An Invitation to a Missional Way of Being* with ruling elder Ellen Creed Branham. He is the author of a second book *Equipping the Saints: A Practical Resource for International Mission Engagement*.

John's loves traveling with his wife Anna and his four kids Eliza, Jack, Pearl, and Tessa. He likes sports, running, and speaking Spanish.