

Faith Statement – John R. Pflug Jr.

I believe in one God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God the Father and creator of all made everything from nothing. By His Word He not only brought into existence everything that is, but also ordered all things according to His sovereign good pleasure. Now, by the grace of God, there is an objective moral place and order for everything and every action within creation. That objective order is determined by the Word of God alone.

God the Son is Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. From before the foundation of the world God elected those whom he would save, and effectively did save them through the penal substitutionary atonement of Christ death on the cross. Christ came into the world to die for the sins of His people. And in His resurrection and eternal reign He serves as mediator and guarantee of the eternal life of His people, the church.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit is the sustainer of all things. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, and brings into effect the will of God so perfectly that nothing happens apart from it. The Holy Spirit gives to men and women spiritual birth from above, calls them into their role in the providential plan of God. Through the preaching of the gospel the Holy Spirit hardens the hearts of the reprobate, and changes the hearts of the elect.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three distinct and equally divine persons, and yet One God.

I believe that the two sacraments of the church are Baptism and Communion, and both are signs and seals which unite the church in creation and time to their Lord, Christ.

I believe that the Bible is the Word of God. It is infallible in its teaching. All of it is God breathed, and all of its words are the very Words of God.

I believe in the historical reality of the miracles of the Bible, especially the virgin birth and bodily resurrection. I believe that Adam was a real man, a historical reality, and that God created him from the dust of the ground. Through his wicked rebellion and disobedience, sin and death entered into every subsequent human being. Sin is a taint of the heart, and a fatal consequence that will be removed only through Christ. I believe that those whom God has elected to salvation will, in the course of their lifetime, confess Jesus as Lord and Savior and receive his baptism by water and Spirit. Those whom God has chosen to salvation will not be lost to hell or death. God's sovereignty in electing His people will not be violated by the frailty of human freedom.

The duty and joy of God's people is to worship and glorify Him. There is no other purpose in life than to glorify God.

John R. Pflug Jr.

Biographical Sketch

My life is that of a sinner saved, and slowly being sanctified, by the sovereign grace of the Almighty God.

My early life was spent with two loving parents, a younger brother, and a younger sister. My father was a United Methodist pastor in the North Texas Conference. As a UMC pastor's family we lived in many different places throughout the conference. My earliest memory of deep theological conversation is when I was about eight years old. I was riding home from worship with my father who had just preached on Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Our conversation began with my question, "If Jesus is God then who was he praying to in the garden?" From there we delved deeply into the Doctrine of The Trinity, and over the course of the next several years most of the other Doctrines of the Church. As long as I can remember I have delighted in thinking on the things of God.

When I was a sophomore in high school the bishop of the UMC intended to move our family yet again, but my father, sensing the exhaustion of our family moving, stepped away from the UMC. At that point my family joined the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, TX where I remained a member until my ordination.

I attended Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX where I intended to study politics and law in the hopes of becoming a wealthy and successful politician. While at TLU I joined a social fraternity which was heavily involved in drinking and hazing. In 2004 I, along with the majority of our fraternity, was arrested for hazing and suspended for a semester from school. I spent that semester back home talking with the pastor and elders of my church about where I had gone wrong, and what redemptive path God had opened for me despite my sin. That is the semester God used to change the trajectory of my future. When I went back to TLU I was no longer headed for law school but for seminary, not to make much of my name but to make much of Jesus' name. I met my wife Brittany at TLU and we were married shortly after we graduated in 2007.

Immediately following college I was enrolled at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I graduated from APTS in 2010, three days before my daughter Emma was born. About two weeks after graduation our family moved to Winnsboro, TX I had accepted the call to be the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro. While in Winnsboro I have been honored to serve as Pastor of a healthy growing congregation, and I was also elected to serve as the youngest mayor in the city's history. I am so humbled when I consider the ways in which God has used me, especially in these last five years.

The time is right for God's next thing. My term as mayor has been completed, and completed well. The church has grown from barely viable to a younger and thriving congregation. My wife (who is from the much larger city of Austin) is ready to move from a rural setting to a more suburban setting. My daughter will be starting school in the fall. While we are unbelievably thankful for the time and lives that have touched us in Winnsboro, we are ready and excited for the door that God has opened for us at Windermere Presbyterian Church. She seems to be a congregation filled with kind and loving people, on the cusp of great things, with an outstanding platform for the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless our ministry with His Church in Wilmington.