

Faith Statement – Robert Newman

I believe in the Triune and Living God, one Substance in three Persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whom we belong and is our sole focus for worship and praise.

As Creator, God brought all things into space and time that humanity may have a personal relationship with God; responding to the love of the Creator. We belong to God, the Holy One of Israel, who saved the Israelites from slavery. God spoke through the prophets and inspired a future where humanity would be freed.

As Redeemer, God's word became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. We trust Jesus as the Messiah, both fully God and fully human. Jesus was baptized by John at the Jordan River that we may see him as the true source of salvation and consider ourselves without rank among other humans. Jesus' sinless life was a full immersion into the depths of human suffering as he blessed children, gave good news to the poor, healed the sick, and freed prisoners in all forms. Jesus then surrendered his life as ransom for the sins of all humanity to fulfill his baptism as the Lamb of God, the final sacrifice. Jesus considered himself subject to God whom he called Father, died, descended, and rose again after three days to proclaim, to share victory over death. The Holy Spirit conceived Jesus, empowered his ministry, and bestowed courage throughout his journey to restore humanity. Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of all.

As Sustainer, God's Spirit in the beginning hovered over the waters communing the bond with Creator and Word. The Holy Spirit bounds us to God and gives us courage to seek beyond ourselves to God as the true source of light and to care for creation; nurturing a greater understanding of love as an unconditional act. The Spirit bonds us as the Church so we together may join God's mission to seek to first the Kingdom of God and proclaim the good news of the crucified and risen Christ to the world.

Jesus Christ sealed the church in grace through the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism claims humanity's connection as the church, calls for the greater purpose of fulfilling the kingdom of God, and affirms new life comes through the grace of Christ alone. The Lord's Supper furthers communion with Christ and one another where at the Lord's Table we give thanks to God for pouring out grace through Jesus Christ as we are lifted into his presence.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired and authoritative canon from God. We are called by name to faith as the prophets and apostles instilled the promise and fulfillment of God's love and salvation through the grace of Jesus Christ. I seek the Holy Spirit to illumine the Scripture so that it may be spoken in a way to be properly heard and preached in a manner that God's will be done; the Scripture properly proclaimed. God granted faith through grace to share this good news with all creation.

In faith, our gaze is upon God, because focusing on ourselves will only lead to darkness in our sinfulness. In election, we are pointed to the sovereignty of God. God welcomes all individually and as the church to accept, witness and to live out the grace given through Jesus Christ. We seek God, because we were first sought by God. We love God, because we were first loved by God. We share gifts, because they are Spiritual gifts given by God for the purpose of the church. As disciples, we actively learn and live into Christ's act for new life, because its implications are not merely meant for fruition after physical death.

In hope, we await the second coming of Jesus Christ when God will wipe every tear from every eye, when hunger will be no more, when every knee will bow, and when every tongue will confess that Christ is Lord; the Kingdom of God fully revealed.