

Barrett Payne – Statement of Faith

I believe in one God who created all that is seen and unseen and who is powerful beyond my understanding. I believe there is a mystery to God which makes us ask questions and brings us closer to God. God is also a liberator and yearns for the freedom of all people. This freedom calls for reconciliation among all creatures as well as heaven and earth.

God's love is shown through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is divine and was born in humble beginnings. The life of Jesus Christ taught us how to live a God centered life which to me means that we seek justice and peace, care for the poor and lonely, and go to the lost. Through Jesus Christ we see God active in this world and can imagine a world where heaven and earth are one. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for all people exemplifying the love, grace and mercy of God. God defined all powers and resurrected Jesus from the dead. In the resurrection death does not have the final say; therefore, we have hope that through Jesus Christ there is new life.

The Holy Spirit is active in this world, moving freely and unpredictably; continuously connecting us mysteriously to Jesus Christ. Since God does not expect for us to go alone, the Holy Spirit is actively at work connecting us to each other as well. The Holy Spirit fosters our relationship with Christ and love for one another.

I believe the church works best when we allow the Holy Spirit to bring a unique and diverse group of persons together as the Body of Christ in order for us to see God through an array of opinions and talents. Together as a church we are to worship God and explore how God is calling us to be Christ disciples. The church is made up of imperfect people who care for each other and allow one another to ask questions, be themselves and show vulnerability.

I believe that the Holy Spirit had an active role in the writing of scripture but humans were the authors. With the help of the Holy Spirit, scripture brings us closer to Jesus Christ and opens our eyes to how God calls us to participate in this world.

I believe the sacrament of baptism is symbol of God's gift of grace to us and this seals God's grace, love and mercy on us throughout our life. Our baptism demonstrates that God extends God's grace to us initially and with the help of our church community, the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ, our faith is transformed throughout our life.

I believe that the Lord's Supper is a symbol of Jesus's love and sacrifice for this world. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the unity of Christ, I believe the Lord's Supper transforms our lives so that we can go into the community of share the love of Christ.