

## Charles L. Stapleton, III - Brief Statement of Faith

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I believe in the triune God, Creator of all things. The triune God is to be worshiped and loved above all else.

I believe that God the Father, in infinite love for us, sent the Son, Jesus Christ, to provide the only way for reconciliation for all who would accept and believe in him.

We are in need of this reconciliation because of our sin and our state of sinfulness. We have inherited a sinful nature from our first parents, but we also live lives full of sin. From this situation, we are powerless to save ourselves.

Jesus Christ, out of love for us and obedience to the Father, came to earth and became human.

In his humanity, Jesus experienced the fullness of humanity, being tempted in every way.

Jesus died on the cross, a death of suffering and shame. Jesus did this in order to bear my sin and the sin of the world.

It is the victory over humiliation, suffering, pain and death by Jesus Christ, the crucified God, that opens the door to a reconciled relationship with God and to life eternal with God in heaven.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit.

It is only through the Spirit of God that belief, faithfulness, and a proper response to God is possible. I can do nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit sent by the Father and the Son to guide, direct, comfort and sustain me.

I believe the Scriptures, the Word of God written, are the unique, original and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ, The Word of God incarnate.

The Holy Scriptures do not stand along other witnesses, but rather stand alone and stand above all other witnesses as they point clearly to the incarnate Word of God, Jesus Christ.

The Church of Christ consists of all for whom Jesus is Lord, forgiven sinners who bear witness in the world to Jesus Christ by its obedience and faith, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Sacraments of the church, Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are the visible signs and seals of God's grace and the promise of salvation. In Baptism, we die and rise with Christ, being joined with Christ in the covenant with God. In partaking in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper we are given a foretaste of the Kingdom of God, remembering Christ's saving act of sacrifice for us, God's sinful children.

The mission of all believers is to proclaim the message of God's reconciliation and grace and to serve as instruments in that ministry, through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.