

Diane B. Giannola  
Statement of Faith  
February 4, 2022

I believe in the one Triune God; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All that is visible and invisible was created and is continually being created by the power of God's Word. I believe that only God can reveal to us who God is and only God can save us from our sins. Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, was totally obedient to God his Father. Jesus Christ willingly laid down His life for us by suffering death on the cross and after being taken down from the cross was then buried in a tomb. The resurrection of Christ three days after His death completely restored and reconciled all creation to right relationship with God. Death no longer has the final word. Nothing can separate us from God's love. Christ ascended into heaven where He reigns at the right hand of God and where He will continue to intercede for us until He comes again in glory.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Spirit of God is present to us individually and in community. God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, continually gives witness to the Spirit within us opening our eyes, minds and hearts through the gift of faith giving us the vision to see who Christ really is; our Lord and Savior.

I believe in the one holy catholic church. The church universal encompasses all faithful people who have given their lives to Jesus Christ, as He has given Himself to them. The ties that bind us in Christ are deeper than any other human relationship, therefore, all those who live in union with Christ, whether in heaven or on earth, are members of the communion of "saints."

In accordance with the Scriptures, I acknowledge two sacraments as instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ; Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the sign and seal through which we are joined to Christ. The waters of Baptism symbolize the washing away of all our sins and a sign that one day we will rise with Him in eternal glory, and that even now we may walk with Him in newness of life. The Lord's Supper is the celebration in which, through the elements of bread and juice, the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present, pouring out His Spirit upon us. As we feed on Him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving, we enter the risen life, such that, His life becomes ours and our life becomes His to all eternity. AMEN.

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Biographical Sketch

My birthplace is York, Pennsylvania. I was a cradle Catholic, the fifth in birth order in a family of six children. I have often referred to the fact that pastoral care was part of my DNA due to the arrival of my youngest brother when I was sixteen months old. My brother was born with severe Down's Syndrome, unable to take care of even his most basic needs. He lived at home for the first sixteen years of his life during which time I was a significant part of his required fulltime caregiving. Family and friends who observed this often remarked that I would make a wonderful nurse. As time progressed, I did receive my nursing degree and worked in various areas of nursing over the years. My call to ministry began while I was working as a Parish Nurse at FPC Charlotte from April 2001-December 2004. During that time, my personal faith journey began to take an important turn. I began to increasingly appreciate the value of working with women in ordained ministry, ministers being allowed to marry, and a more open and inviting participation of everyone being welcomed at the Lord's Supper, as well as the Reformed Tradition understanding of "the church reformed is always reforming." Several years later I eventually made the decision to follow where I truly believed, and still believe, God was calling me. Once again, a variety of folks, including ministers, friends, and church members repeatedly asked me if I had ever considered going to seminary. I felt God nudging me more and more as I continued my work as a Parish Nurse caring for people wholistically, specifically, through God's grace, I was helping people to recognize that every individual encompasses a mind, body, and spirit connection with the presence of Christ at the center. Then and now, I consider pastoral care ministry to be the privilege of a sojourner walking with people on their journey and the road where we are walking is nothing less than sacred ground.

From 2007 until December of 2021 my husband and I were active members of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. My faith journey continued as I participated in the life of the church. In September 2012 I entered Union Presbyterian Seminary where I graduated in 2017 with a degree of Master of Divinity. I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in August 2018 answering the call to become their first chaplain which I served until December 2019. Unfortunately, health issues related to my previous breast cancer diagnosis forced me to retire from that position. I have continued to stay connected with ministry on a limited volunteer basis by serving as chaplain for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Crime Scene Unit as well as the Parish Associate liaison for Missions and Outreach at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church. Relationship for me is everything. My relationship to God, self and others is my life and my ministry.

I have been married to my husband Rich for 50+ years. We have two children and three beautiful granddaughters. We recently moved from the Charlotte area to Ocean Isle Beach, NC. I will confess that I not only love the beach which for me has always been what the Celtics refer to as a "thin space."