

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Elizabeth Doolin

I believe in the triune God revealed to humankind in scripture, made known personally through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, and at work in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through faithfully grappling with the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, we can better understand both God and humans—as we exist in relationship with God and one another in the context of ancient Israel and in our lives today. We learn of the sovereignty of God and the obligation of humans to follow the path of the Lord. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are redeemed from our sins, and we learn what it means to live a life of love, compassion, and faithfulness. In the power of the Holy Spirit, God reveals Godself in the world today, working through people and nature to illuminate God's presence and purpose.

In claiming that God is sovereign, I hold fast to the Reformed belief that God has a purpose for all of life on earth, and that God is actively at work in the world bringing this purpose into fruition. I also believe that God is all-loving. God seeks for goodness and love to reign on earth, and desires that humans work towards peace and love for one another and the natural world.

I trust in the grace of God for salvation on this earth and in the life hereafter. I trust in a loving God whose intention for people is love; that we experience love through a relationship with God and our relationships with one another. I know that I cannot make it through this life alone but am dependent on the grace of God. I believe that God's grace is available to all.

I believe the role of the church is to share the good news through word and sacrament, and respond to word and sacrament through service to the world and communion with one another. In the sacrament of Baptism, we are birthed into new life in Christ, and receive the promise of Christian community from the church family. In the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we commune with believers around the world, both experiencing and remembering Christ's gift of love and redemption for all.

I believe that all people are created in the Image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. I believe that the truth of the Imago Deo calls us to work toward the creation of a world of justice and equality, where the value of all humans is affirmed. Just as Jesus reached out to the poor, the widows, and the lepers, we too are called to follow this path and do the same—seeking healing and hope for all humankind.

BIO—Rev. Elizabeth H. Doolin

Elizabeth comes to us from Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, where she is currently serving as the Transitional Associate Pastor. She was called there in 2018 and served as the Director of Young Adult Ministry. In addition, she was the UKirk campus minister to the University of Memphis and Rhodes College through the Presbytery. In both positions, she developed and coordinated events, while enjoying genuine relationships with both young adults and students, providing pastoral care when needed. She is overjoyed at the opportunity to continue in her growing passion for pastoral care, while developing ways to attract new members to Brownson.

Elizabeth grew up in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and moved to Memphis in 2009 to attend Rhodes College, graduating in 2013. After a gap year spent volunteering with an NGO in India and interning at University Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa (now Grace Presbyterian Church), Elizabeth attended Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville completed her field education internship at Westminster Presbyterian, and earned a master of divinity in May 2017. She married her husband Tim later that month, In August 2017, they moved back to Memphis, where she worked as a chaplain resident at the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, providing pastoral care to veterans and their families. She was ordained as a teaching elder on March 24, 2019.

Outside of work, Elizabeth and Tim have two dogs and welcomed the birth of their son Arden in the fall of 2021. Elizabeth enjoys spending time outside walking, running, and biking; reading a good novel; cooking and eating tasty food; hanging out with friends and family, and traveling, whenever possible.

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Ordination Question Responses

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Trusting in Jesus Christ is a daily practice of reminding ourselves who we are and whose we are. We are God's beloved children, held in the grace of Jesus Christ. To trust in Jesus Christ, acknowledging him Lord of all, means to recognize that all other entities that compete for our trust and adoration will let us down. If we worship our own abilities and successes, our government, our politics, or wealth, or beauty, we will ultimately be left feeling empty. It is in Christ alone that we, as Christians, find salvation, transformation, and redemption. Trusting in Jesus Christ means that we recognize him and his presence in everyone and everything. We understand that there is no area of our lives in which Christ is not a part. As a pastor, I recognize that Christ is the Head of the Church. This means that it is the authority of Christ to which the Church submits - not myself, nor any other pastor or entity. I will forever be asking of myself and the ministry that I engage in - *does this reflect the image of Christ? Are we being the hands and feet of Christ in the world?* To recognize Christ as the Head of the Church is to always be asking these questions as a church body, for it is together in community that we are truly the body of Christ.

8. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

In my commitment to praying for and serving people as their pastor, my commitment is to being in relationship with people. This relationship is not one of hierarchy or paternalism, but one of mutuality. This is what we see modeled in Jesus Christ. Jesus led and served, but also entrusted his followers with the ability to lead and serve. As Presbyterians, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. We recognize the gifts and talents that God has given all as we seek to be the body of Christ. As a pastor, I hope to listen deeply to the needs of people, praying for them and accompanying them in their walks with God. I also hope that I can empower them to tap into their own gifts as we seek to be the church of Jesus Christ. It is through the work of sustaining meaningful relationships that I hope to serve people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.