

1 **Statement of Faith – David Annett – November 2018**

2 I believe in our God who loves us more than we can imagine. I believe that God's grace extends to all of
3 creation, that God's love finds no place it cannot go. I believe in our God who created all things good and
4 is always working to reconcile that creation unto God's self. I believe that God reveals God's self in a
5 multiplicity of beautiful ways to creation.

6 I believe in Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, the Word made flesh, through whom we are given an example
7 of how to live in and love God's beloved creation, and through whose ministry we are given a challenge
8 to be powerfully present to those most in need of the saving love of our God. Jesus Christ, fully human
9 and fully God, sacrificed his own life so that we might know the forgiveness of sin. Our justification with
10 God is found through faith in Christ, who defeated evil through his death on the cross. We find hope in
11 the knowledge that death was not the end of Jesus' story because God raised him to life again. Jesus
12 calls us to make known the good news to the oppressed, and the outcasts, and the strangers in our
13 midst and to work for justice. I believe that Jesus modeled for us a life of devotion to God and to those
14 around him, living out the Great Commandment that he passed along to his followers.

15 I believe the Holy Spirit is the Triune God at work in the world. I trust in the Holy Spirit to guide my steps
16 and challenge me to grow in faith. The presence of the Holy Spirit allows us to interpret God's calling to
17 each of us in the world through the Holy Scriptures, traditions and teachings of our church. I believe the
18 Holy Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God, a witness to God without parallel, the primary source of
19 teaching and truths that illumine our path. I secondarily am guided by the creeds and confessions of the
20 reformed church in my understanding of theology and communal life as God's people. The teachings
21 and traditions of our church are supporting guides for instruction and examples for faith. I believe that
22 God speaks to us still, through the Word and Spirit, in new and creative ways.

23 Through worship, the sacraments, proclamation of the good news and support and nurture of the
24 community, the church lives out the calling of God. I understand the sacraments of baptism and
25 communion to be tangible ways through which the Holy Spirit works to make known the promises found
26 to us through the gospels. Through the waters of baptism, we find grace and are greeted as members of
27 the household of God. At the table we remember and commune with Christ and each other through a
28 meal of acceptance and reconciliation. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are signs and seals by which we
29 can know and trust that we are a forgiven and loved people of God.

30 I believe that we are a missional church, sent into the world as God's reconciling community, healing
31 and bringing together people with God and with each other. I feel called to join in God's work through
32 God's instrument of the church by service and leadership. I deeply appreciate the model of leadership in
33 our church of teaching elders working side by side with ruling elders and deacons in shared
34 responsibility. I believe that in living out God's mission in the world, we are called to build up the church
35 by making disciples of Christ, people who work for God's justice in the world, showing others how much
36 they are loved and cared for by their God. We are called to be in dialogue and authentic relationship
37 with people from other faith traditions. In learning from one other, we will be challenged to reform and
38 know more fully what it is that we believe.

39 I believe that there is and always will be an element of mystery surrounding our relationship with God.
40 Though I have made an effort to write what it is that I believe about how God is revealed through Jesus
41 Christ, in the work of the Holy Spirit, in the church, I will always make room for mystery concerning the
42 divine. The mystery of the divine brings me great comfort as it reminds me of the immensity of the one
43 whom we worship. I rest in my belief that God is sovereign, there is nothing bigger than God, that
44 nothing we face can hold more power over us than God's love holds within us. In our lives, God is
45 revealed, and God is hidden, it is part of our relationship to God as human beings. We are God's
46 beloved, but humbly realizing we don't get to know everything. What we can trust through the story of
47 Jesus is that God's love is sacrificial and selfless and never-ending, and forever we belong to God.