

Faith Statement

I believe in God who exists as Three in One. I believe in the Creator and divine Parent, who loves this world and called it into being, who is everywhere at all times in creation. We know this God through our experiences of beauty, awe, and awareness, and yet God also remains a mystery to us, unseen and unpredictable.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnated in human form, whose life and teaching best exemplified the way God wishes us to live. Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension are our salvation and the path of reconciliation between God and all of creation.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the movement of God within and between us, inspiring and challenging us to live fully as children of God and followers of Christ. The Spirit is with us always, giving us the gifts we need to thrive within the Body of Christ and the world.

I believe in the power God exercises through the Word in Scripture to tell the story of God's action in the world, to testify to the life of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit, to teach us how to live fully, to comfort us when we are afflicted, and to afflict us when we are comfortable but should not be. I believe in the presence of Christ in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, through which we are welcomed into the covenant family of God, affirmed as God's beloved children, united as the Body of Christ, and strengthened for ministry.

I believe we are not intended to live alone, but in community, as even God lives in the community of the Trinity. I believe that the Church - the messy, divided, human collective - is nonetheless called to embody God and proclaim the good news of Christ's salvation. I believe that the unity of the whole Church is, despite all appearances, the reality of the Body of Christ that God has created, and also a goal to which we must attain, so that the world might witness the grace of God in us.

I believe the arc of God's story, and the call of all Christ-followers, is always toward love, justice, hope, and peace. As such, the Church is called to resist forces of hatred, injustice, fear, and violence, and to stand for those who are unable to stand for themselves. I believe the world in which we presently live is in ecological and economic crisis. As an agent of God's justice, the church is called to resist a world order that treats both humans and nature as commodities for the use of those who can afford them. Through the community of the Church, we provide strong support for one another to choose instead the thriving of all of creation.

I believe that regardless of our faults and frailties, we bear God's image. In life and in death, in life beyond death, we are not our own, and we are not alone. We belong to God.

Biography

Stacey Midge was installed as the Pastor of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church in June 2017. Before moving to Cincinnati, she served for nine years as the Associate Minister at First Reformed Church of Schenectady, NY, where her ministry focused on mission, outreach, and youth. She has also been a solo pastor at Glen Reformed Church in Fultonville, NY and a Chaplain Fellow at Hanover College in Hanover, IN. She graduated from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI in 2003 and was ordained in the Reformed Church in America (RCA) on July 20, 2003. Her credentials are currently held in the RCA through the Classis of Schenectady.

Stacey's interview process with MAPC invited a period of discernment regarding her evolving call to denominational membership. Beyond the call to serve in this particular congregation, she has found an ecclesiastical home and a shared vision for ministry within the PC(USA), where she appreciates the rich Reformed foundation in both theology and polity, as well as the intentional openness to the movements of the Spirit in individual and collective conscience.

Stacey grew up in Minnesota, where all of her family lives. She came to Christian faith while a student at Drake University, where she became involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Through her discipleship and ministry with IVCF and academic studies in the Religion department, she began to sense a call to vocational ministry. Her pastors at Meredith Drive Reformed Church, which she joined during her senior year of college, encouraged her in this calling and gave her the opportunity to serve as an intern before joyfully supporting her in seminary. Their mentoring inspired a continuing passion to develop upcoming generations of church leadership, and Stacey has had active roles with youth and young adults in each of her ministry settings and spearheaded internship programs for recent graduates and seminarians.

Vocationally and personally, Stacey's interest leans toward social justice and advocacy for and with marginalized people, and she has participated in several non-profit boards and justice-oriented actions. In more relaxing times, she plays guitar and sings - and greatly misses the alt-rock band she fronted in New York - and tends to the every passing whim of her 15 year-old diva hound, Laila.

In the RCA, Stacey served in a number of roles, including Moderator of the General Synod Commission for Women, Chair of the Overtures and Judicial Business Committee of the Regional Synod of Albany, and President of the Classis of Schenectady. While she now discerns a shift in her calling away from the RCA and into the PC(USA), she remains enthusiastic about the connective nature of the church and her responsibility for participating in ministry beyond the local congregation, and looks forward to contributing her gifts and skills to the work of the Presbytery of Cincinnati and the PC(USA) as a whole.