

PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO CALLED MEETING – July 24, 2007

The Called meeting of the Presbytery of San Diego was held July 24, 2007, at Northminster Presbyterian Church and was convened by the Moderator at 2:30 p.m. He led the presbytery in prayer and welcomed the presbytery.

ROLL: It was VOTED that the roll would be taken by card, and that those registering during the meeting, together with corresponding members, and those requesting leaves of absence (when granted) constitute the roll. A quorum was present.

<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ECCLESIASTICAL DESIGNATION</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
Carlsbad, Christ Church of La Costa	D. J. Kelly	101	Gerry Tayler Laura Mitchell
Chula Vista, Chula Vista	R. Davis	101	Jay Dalseth Cora Gregory
Coronado, Graham Memorial	D. H. McElrath	101	Langdon Smith
El Cajon, First	S. W. Locke	101	
El Cajon, Fletcher Hills	B. Reed	103	Les Campbell Judy King
Escondido, Westminster	J. S. Rauch	101	
Fallbrook, Fallbrook	K. Bottomly	101	
La Jolla, La Jolla	P. Cunningham	101	Bobby Foushee Marcia Borgman Mary Kinyon
La Jolla, Mt. Soledad	J. Moser	105	Jane Camerer
Lakeside, Community	R. W. Mentze	101	
Oceanside, First	L. Leon	101	Phyllis Bird Rosalind Marver Sande Rajcic
Rancho Santa Fe, Village Community	J. K. Farley	103	
San Diego, Christ United			Ardelle Matthews James Grice
San Diego, Faith			Nancy Harber
San Diego, First	D. D. Webster M. E. Walls	101 103	Maurice Caskey Marilyn Carnes Chris Sloan
San Diego, Linda Vista	R. R. Hayward	106	Steve Awe
San Diego, Mira Mesa	W. L. James	101	
San Diego, Northminster			Loreto Remorca, Jr.
San Diego, Pacific Beach			Jane Kay
San Diego, Palisades			Ruth Sweet
San Diego, Point Loma Community	R. Brown E. Girod	103 105	Bob Moore Emery Cummins

San Diego, Rancho Bernardo Community	B. B. Humphrey R. Sparling M. Wasef J. Farrell	101 193 193 103	Lois V. Farley Polly Purcifull Cindy Paget
San Diego, Westminster	T. Wolfe	191	Marcy Bergqvist William Hodgkiss
Solana Beach, Solana Beach	N. Nybo J. Kerkhoff J. Lagerstrom J. Espitia	103 103 107 107	Russ Love Bob Rantzow Dana Jacobs Barry Billingsley
Spring Valley, Trinity			Charles Porter
Vista, Grace	W. C. Bynagte	797	Hank Morris
Westmorland, Community	Vacant		Ruth Hoskins

BOLD = Attended Meeting = excused A = Alternate

<u>SPECIAL OFFICES</u>		<u>ECC DESIGNATION</u>
* Stated Clerk	Linda Therien	303
* Discovery Valley NCD	C. Kohlbry	301
Director, Reality Changers	Chris Yanov	305
Iglesia Church	Efrain Romero	

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS PRESENT

Rev. Dr. John Turner, Moderator of Los Rancho Presbytery
 Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden, Evangelist Presbyter/Stated Clerk of San Joaquin Presbytery
 Rev. (Air Force Chaplain) Gary Zaccardi, San Francisco Presbytery
 Rev. Rosalind Ziccardi, New Hope Presbytery

INQUIRERS & CANDIDATES PRESENT

Robert "Robbie" Carnes
 Lindsey Carnes
 Bradley M. Roth
 Rene Roth
 Michael Sedgwick
 Tina Thompson
 Katie Pazan

MODERATOR

- Neal Nybo

VICE-MODERATOR/MODERATOR ELECT

- Elizabeth Crews

* Carole Ostrander	Minute Clerk; Chair, Ecclesiastical Committee
* John Lucas	Chair, Budget, Property, and Finance Committee
Rudy Kosits	CPM Member
* Michael Williams	Chair, Committee on Ministry
* Bill Tayler	Chair, Human Resources Committee
Machelle May	Presbytery Secretary/Receptionist
Marcia Borgman	Director of Finance and Administrative Services

* = voting member

OTHER MINISTERS

H. Allen	797	H. Jonas	299	E. M. Piper	797
J. H. Boller, Jr.	299	S. Mitchell	797	P. R. Pulliam	299
M. Cross Sexton	299	D. H. Nason	654	M. Taxer	299
				P. Weiler	299

VISITORS AND OTHERS:

Lisa Scott Jones, Christ La Costa Presbyterian Church
 Marjorie Reid, Linda Vista
 Tom Carnes, First San Diego
 Lucy Decorte, La Jolla
 Mary Hellern, Faith Presbyterian
 Davin Hellern, Faith Presbyterian
 Sharon Ramirez, Chula Vista Presbyterian
 Crystal Carlson, First San Diego
 Emily Lin, San Diego Taiwanese
 Clio McEuen, Pacific Beach Presbyterian
 Leonard Swanson, First San Diego

Attendance:

Ministers	37
Elders	45
Corresponding	4
Inquirers/Candidates	7
Visitors/Others	11
Total	104

The Moderator introduced Elder Linda Therien, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of San Diego.

Stated Clerk's Report – by Elder Linda Therien

On or about May 30, 2007, allegations of an offense were received by the Stated Clerk, who in turn informed the Presbytery Council on June 5, 2007. Pursuant to Book of Order – Rules of Discipline, D-10.0103, the Council acted to authorize the Moderator of Presbytery to appoint an Investigative Committee of five to inquire into the allegations. This committee has been appointed, convened by the Stated Clerk, and has begun their work.

Presbytery VOTED to approve the proposed docket with permission for the Moderator and Stated Clerk to alter as may become necessary.

Moderator's Report

The Moderator, Rev. Neal Nybo, declared that the purpose of the meeting to be as follows:

1. To receive and act on reports of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
2. To receive and act on reports of the Committee on Ministry.
3. To receive and act on the report from the Presbytery Nominating Committee.
4. To receive and act on the recommendation of the Taiwanese Task Force that an Administrative Commission be named by the Moderator of Presbytery for the purpose of exploring the establishment of a Taiwanese Presbyterian Church within the Presbytery of San Diego.
5. To vote on the report of the Presbytery Moderator to elect an elder or pastor to the vacant position on the Administrative Commission for San Diego Christ United Presbyterian Church. And,
6. To receive and act on the report of the Executive Presbyter Search Committee.

The Moderator then explained that the only business before the assembly on this day was what was listed in the call.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) & Committee on Ministry (COM)

The following reports of the CPM were presented by Elder Rudy Kosits and for the COM by Elder Michael Williams.

Bradley M. Roth

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) presented Candidate Bradley M. Roth, a candidate under care of San Diego Presbytery, to be examined for ordination in order that he might receive and accept the call of the Christ Rancho La Costa Presbyterian Church to be their Designated Associate Pastor.

Mr. Roth read his *Statement of Faith* and was examined by Presbytery. The Presbytery VOTED to arrest the exam and excused Mr. Roth from the meeting. The Presbytery discussed the business and VOTED to sustain the examination and move to ordination. Mr. Roth returned to the meeting and was received with a standing ovation.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) then presented the following terms of call for Mr. Roth as Designated Associate Pastor of Christ Rancho La Costa Presbyterian Church effective August 6, 2007 through August 5, 2009.

Salary/Housing	\$47,860
Social Security Reimbursement	3,590
Allowances:	
Study Leave/Books/Travel/Misc	3,200
Medical/Dental supplements	2,000
Board of Pensions	\$16,207
Total compensation	\$72,857

Vacation – 4 weeks per year
Study Leave – 2 weeks per year

The principles of the Equal Opportunity Employment Plan as adopted by the Presbytery were followed.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the terms of call for Bradley Roth.

The COM then presented and the Presbytery VOTED approval of the following Administrative Commission to ordain and install Bradley M. Roth on September 9, 2007, at 4:00 pm at Rancho La Costa Presbyterian Church:

Elder Elizabeth Crews, Moderator (1st San Diego)
Elder Polly Purcifull (Rancho Bernardo)
Elder Laura Mitchell (Christ La Costa)
Rev. Jan Cook
Rev. Dr. Bruce Humphrey
Rev. Joe Farrell

Michael Sedgwick

The CPM presented Candidate Michael Sedgwick, a candidate under care of San Diego Presbytery, to be examined for ordination in order that he might receive and accept the call of the La Jolla Presbyterian Church to be their Designated Associate Pastor.

Mr. Sedgwick read his *Statement of Faith* and was examined by Presbytery. The Presbytery VOTED to arrest the exam and excused Mr. Sedgwick from the meeting. The Presbytery discussed the business and VOTED to sustain the examination and move to ordination. Mr. Sedgwick returned to the meeting and was received with a standing ovation.

The COM then presented the following terms of call for Mr. Sedgwick as Designated Associate Pastor of La Jolla Presbyterian Presbyterian Church effective July 24, 2007, for a period of two years:

Salary/Housing	\$54,000
Board of Pensions (31.5%)	17,010
Mileage Reimbursement @ 48.5 cents per mile	
Study Leave/Professional Expenses	1,500
Vacation – 4 weeks per year	
Study Leave – 2 weeks per year	
Cobra coverage in the amount of \$8,000	

The principles of the Equal Opportunity Employment Plan as adopted by the Presbytery were followed.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the terms of call for Michael Sedgwick.

The COM then presented and the Presbytery VOTED approval of the following Administrative Commission to ordain and install Michael Sedgwick on September 23, 2007, at 4 pm a La Jolla Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Neal Nybo, Moderator
 Rev. Paul Cunningham
 Rev. Kevin Womack
 Elder Robert Sedgwick (La Jolla)
 Elder Dan Peddie (La Jolla)
 Elder Linda Therien (Palisades)

As corresponding: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Holmes (San Jose Presbytery)

Robert Duane Carnes

The CPM presented Candidate Robert Duane Carnes, a candidate under care of San Diego Presbytery, to be examined for ordination in order that he might receive and accept the call of the First Presbyterian Church of South Bend Indiana to be their Co-Associate Pastor.

Mr. Carnes read his *Statement of Faith* and was examined by the Presbytery. The Presbytery VOTED to arrest the exam and excused Mr. Carnes from the meeting. The presbytery discussed this business and VOTED to sustain the examination and move to ordination. Mr. Carnes returned to the meeting and was received with a standing ovation.

Lindsey Neel Carnes

The CPM presented Candidate Lindsey Neel Carnes, a candidate under care of San Diego Presbytery, to be examined for ordination in order that she might receive and accept the call of the First Presbyterian Church of South Bend Indiana to be their Co-Associate Pastor.

Mrs. Carnes read her *Statement of Faith* and was examined by the Presbytery. The Presbytery VOTED to arrest the exam and excused Mrs. Carnes from the meeting. The presbytery discussed this business and VOTED to sustain the examination and move to ordination. Mrs. Carnes returned to the meeting and was received with a standing ovation.

The COM presented the following terms of call for Mr. and Mrs. Carnes as Co-Associate Pastors of the First Presbyterian Church in South Bend Indiana.

Salary	\$22,000
Housing	20,000
Social Security Supplement	3,213
Board of Pensions	13,230
Medical/Dental reimbursement	1,260 *
Foregone interest on housing loan not to exceed \$30,000	1,200
Travel expenses @ 48.5 per mile	800
Continuing Education	1,000
Professional Expenses	2,000
Full moving expenses	

Paid vacation of one month per year (for each)
Paid continuing education of two weeks annually (for each)
cumulative to six weeks

Discount of up to 30% tuition for two children at the Children's Center
(based on available space)

* estimated interest based on a 20% down payment loan of \$30,000
with a 6% interest rate

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the terms of call for Robert and Lindsey Carnes, enroll them as members of San Diego Presbytery and transfer their membership to the Presbytery of Wabash Valley.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following Administrative Commission to ordain Robert Duane and Lindsey Neel Carnes on July 29, 2007 at 4 pm at First Presbyterian Church of San Diego.

Rev. Neal Nybo, Moderator
Rev. Dr. Douglas Webster
Rev. Margaret Walls
Elder Cora Gregory (Chula Vista)
Elder Blaine Gross (First San Diego)

Rev. Dr. Mofid Wasef

The COM recommended to Presbytery that they concur in the recommendation of the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church that the Rev. Dr. Mofid Wasef be called as an Associate Pastor from Designated Associate Pastor retroactive to June 1, 2007 with the following terms:

Salary	\$10,000
Housing	55,000
Board of Pensions	20,150
Auto expense	1,000
Professional expenses	1,500
Study Leave	2,000

4 weeks vacation annually
2 weeks study leave annually

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the call.

Rev. Ray Sparling

The COM recommended that Presbytery concur in the recommendation of the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church that the Rev. Ray Sparling be called as Associate Pastor from Designated Associate Pastor retroactive to June 1, 2007 with the following terms:

Salary	\$21,500
Housing	45,000
Board of Pensions	20,755
Auto	1,000
Professional expenses	1,500
Study Leave	2,000

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the call.

Report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee

Pastor Doug Kelly for the Presbytery Nominating Committee placed in nomination and the Presbytery VOTED the following:

Committee on Ministry – Rev. Dr. Mofid Wasef, Class of 2008
 Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Rev. Lee Riley, Class of 2007
 Budget Property & Finance – Rev. Ed Piper, Class of 2008

Report of the Taiwanese Task Force

Elder Loreto Remorca, Jr., Chair of the Taiwanese Task Force presented the following.

Background: For many months now, a group of Taiwanese Presbyterians associated with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, have been in conversation with representatives of the Presbytery of San Diego and have expressed serious interest in wanting to charter a new church within the Presbytery of San Diego. The Presbytery Moderator appointed a Task Force to begin formal conversations with this group and have concluded that establishing a new church is a realistic idea and are now ready to proceed to more formally explore the possibilities for this to happen. The Task Force has met with the leadership of this group and the Stated Clerk has verified that the relationship of their current Pastor (Rev. Shang Tsai) with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan is of good standing. All matters appear to be decent and in order and this business should be ready to proceed. Therefore, the Task Force proposes the following:

WHEREAS, the Task Force for the Taiwanese Presbyterian New Church Development has been continually meeting with the Pastor and Elders of the Taiwanese congregation since April 2007 to explore the congregation becoming part of the Presbyterian Church USA and the Presbytery of San Diego;

WHEREAS, the Taiwanese congregation has been worshipping and serving Jesus Christ in mission together since 1990;

WHEREAS, the Taiwanese congregation has had exploratory discussions to join the Presbytery of San Diego off and on for over fifteen years;

WHEREAS, the Task Force working with the Synod of Southern California & Hawaii's Asian Presbyterian Council's consultant, Rev. Dr. Edward Tanng, has conducted a successful background investigation and credentials check with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan on the ministry of Rev. Shang Tsai;

The Task Force moved the following:

That Presbytery form an Administrative Commission (AC) for the purpose of chartering a church as enumerated in the Book of Order G-7.0201 and G-7.0202; and operating in accordance with Book of Order G-9.0502 and G-9.0503. Those to serve on the AC as nominated by the Presbytery Moderator are:

Elder Loreto Remorca, Jr., Chair (Northminster Presbyterian Church)
Elder Michael Williams (Village Rancho Santa Fe Presbyterian Church)
Elder Minoa Chang (Solana Beach Presbyterian Church)
Rev. Paul Pulliam
Three additional members to be appointed by the Moderator

As a corresponding member – Rev. Dr. Edward Tanng, Presbytery of the Pacific

That the Presbytery dissolve, with appreciation, the Taiwanese Task Force.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the AC and dissolve the Taiwanese Task Force.

Report of the Presbytery Moderator

The Presbytery VOTED to concur in the request of Presbytery Moderator Neal Nybo, that Elder Garry Thornton of Christ La Costa be elected to fill a vacancy on the Administrative Commission for San Diego Christ United.

Report of the Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee (EPNC)

The report of the EPNC was made by the committee Chair, Elder Bill Taylor.

The Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee recommended to Presbytery that the Rev. Dr. Clark Cowden be received into the membership of Presbytery and that he be invited to serve as the Executive Presbyter effective October 8, 2007.

Contingent on the Presbytery's vote to receive Dr. Cowden, the EPNC recommended the following terms:

Salary/Housing	\$95,000
Board of Pensions	29,925
Medical/Dental allowance	3,000
Car expense @ \$.485 per mile	6,500
Book Allowance	1,000
Total	\$135,425

Sabbatical of four months after seven years
Study Leave – 2 weeks per year
Vacation – 4 weeks per year
Sick Leave – 12 days per year
Reasonable moving costs to relocate to San Diego

The principles of the Equal Opportunity Employment Plan as adopted by the presbytery were followed.

The EPNC further recommended to Presbytery that they commit to Dr. Cowden that they would help him by extending a loan for the purchase of a home within the following guidelines:

Five-year balloon
Interest payments only
Interest rate at 1% above our cost
Loan amount at approximately \$75,000 with the possibility of going to \$100,000

Dr. Cowden read his *Statement of Faith* and was examined by Presbytery. The Presbytery VOTED to arrest the exam and excused Dr. Cowden from the meeting. The Presbytery discussed the business and VOTED to sustain the examination and receive Dr. Cowden into the membership of the Presbytery. This vote was taken by secret ballot and the vote was 77 in favor, 2 against and 1 abstention.

The Presbytery acted to separate the remaining business into two parts and consider the terms of employment as one issue and the housing assistance as another.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the terms of employment.

The Presbytery VOTED to postpone approval of a loan to Dr. Cowden and directed the Budget Property & Finance Committee of Presbytery to explore best options in making a loan. The Presbytery further authorized the Council to recommend and act on behalf of Presbytery in this matter if necessary but instructed them to report the status of this business at the September meeting of Presbytery.

Dr. Cowden returned to the meeting and was received with a standing ovation.

The EPNCs final motion was to recommend the dissolution of their committee effective October 8, 2007. The members of the search committee were Rev. Jim Rauch, Rev. Mike McClenahan, Rev. Jan Farley, Rev. Rachel Brown, Elder Ardelle Matthews, Elder Cheryl Kosits and Elder Bill Tayler. The Presbytery VOTED to concur in this request and commended them for their outstanding work.

Miscellaneous Business:

Rev. Douglas Webster, Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church, San Diego, was recognized for his service as he leaves for a teaching position at Beeson Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama. Rev. Margaret Walls led the presbytery in a time of prayer for Pastor Webster and his family as well as the church family at First Presbyterian in San Diego during this season of transition.

Adjournment

The Presbytery VOTED to adjourn at 6:15 pm and were dismissed with prayer and grace.

Carole Ostrander, Minute Clerk for
Elder Linda Therien, Stated Clerk

Statement of Faith - Bradley M. Roth

I believe in the one triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that God always was, and always will be; without God there would be nothing. God created the world out of nothing, and continues to create and sustain the world in gracious providence now and in the future, all for the manifestation of God's glory. God alone is worthy of worship. I believe God is a God of love. God is relational and wants to be an active and intimate part of our lives, as attested to: through those who God spoke to in the Old Testament, through the relational life Jesus led, and the way the Holy Spirit speaks to us and intercedes for us in prayer. God is in no way the author of evil or sin, as God opposes all evil. God's justice prevails over all things through the righteous reign of God. God continues to govern creation so that all things work together for good for those who love God.

I believe Jesus is God's self-revelation, born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and then rose from the dead. Jesus is the Lord and head of the church. Jesus is the perfect expression of what humanity was designed to be. Because Jesus was both fully human and fully divine, his death was the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Salvation is God's work through Jesus Christ to reclaim humankind and all creation from sin and its consequences. Our salvation lies solely on Christ's righteousness and atonement for our sins. We are justified through faith alone in Christ Jesus, and through our repentance we are reconciled to God through God's grace. This grace cannot be earned; it is a gift of God and not as a result of works. Without God's intervening grace and salvation through Jesus, all humanity would be lost and condemned. Jesus is to be the center of the church's worship, mission, discipleship, and proclamation.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. Even as the Spirit of God hovered over the waters at creation, the Spirit is active in our lives today, enabling us to receive forgiveness and in turn forgive one another. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to represent Jesus in spite of our sinfulness. I believe that the Holy Spirit works in and among us on a daily basis, guiding, empowering, and speaking in and through us. As the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, scripture is still alive for us today as the Holy Spirit interprets scripture for us. Through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and changed more and more into the image of Christ.

Christ gave the sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper to the church. Through the sacrament of Baptism we are engrafted into Christ. We are claimed by God in the waters of Baptism and washed clean from our sins. As we accept God's grace, our old life of sin is washed away, and a new life has begun. Through baptism, the church celebrates the renewal of the covenant God has made with God's people, and acknowledges that the one baptized is now a part of the covenant community of faith. Our recognition of infant baptism is a clear sign of God's grace, and reminds us that God reaches out to us even before we are able to respond in faith.

As we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we remember the saving death of our Lord Jesus Christ until He comes again. This Supper is a celebration of the reconciliation of God with humankind, and us with each other. We celebrate the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross, and receive the benefits of His resurrection as we remember that Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ lives in us, and Christ will come again. We are strengthened spiritually through the partaking of the elements of the bread and the cup, to go out into the world and do the work the Lord has called us to.

As humans we are sinful by nature because of the first sin of Adam and Eve, and therefore cannot overcome our sinfulness without God's help. Our acceptance of God's grace through faith is merely allowing God's love to rain down on us. God's grace cannot be earned and requires nothing but the acceptance of that grace. Because of the unconditional love of Jesus Christ and the grace of God in our life, we are moved to live our lives according to the will of God. And as we do the will of God in the world, we are a witness to the sacrifice of Jesus, and the love of God.

The church is called to be a beacon in the world, bringing truth and light to our local communities and reaching out to the whole world by developing disciples of Jesus Christ. God has given us all different talents and abilities, and as a disciple of Christ, every believer is called to participate in Jesus' priestly ministry. The church is to continue the reconciling work of Jesus Christ in the world, empowered through the work of the Holy Spirit, with Jesus as the head of the church. The Bible is the first and final authority for the church in all areas of faith; it is God's written Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Statement of Faith

I believe in God, the God that created the Heavens and the earth, the God described in the Bible. God is the one true God, present in three distinct persons, God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God is sovereign over all creation, seen and unseen. I believe God called humanity to a life of obedience and relationship to God, but humanity was disobedient and fell into sin and we separated ourselves from God's presence. Completely lost and unable to free ourselves from the bondage of sin and death, God revealed a plan for our salvation.

Jesus Christ being truly God became truly human. Jesus Christ's incarnate life was to fulfill the law so humanity could be reconciled to God. For us, Jesus Christ suffered. For us Jesus Christ was crucified. For us Jesus Christ died. For us and for our salvation, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Where we were deserving of death, Jesus died for us. Where we were unjustified, by his grace and sacrifice, Jesus Christ justified us.

I believe the Spirit of God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. I believe the Spirit of God also comes to dwell within our lives. I believe the Holy Spirit sustains us to continually reconcile our lives to God. I believe the Holy Spirit gives us the ability and power to live obediently to God.

I believe that those who repent from their sin and want to serve and follow Jesus Christ are called to continue to the mission that Jesus Christ started, which is continued through the church. I believe the church needs to continue this mission by reading and preaching the Word of God, speaking for those who can not speak, loving those who feel no love, fighting for those who can not fight, giving to those who have nothing, teaching and leading those who are lost and guiding and growing those who are followers of Jesus Christ. Scripture is the Word of God witnessing to God's self revelation, is infallible and is the ultimate authority for us and as the church and we are called to read and preach the Word of God to all people of the world. The Word of God written by humans, but inspired by God.

The church is also called to seal the Word of God, which we do through baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a sign and seal of us participating in Jesus' death and resurrection and that we are being incorporated into Christ. The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord and a foretaste of things to come. I believe that during the Lord's Supper Jesus Christ is present in Spirit with the people and the people are being renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that part of the covenant that God made with us is responding to God's grace and reconciliation by being obedient in all we do. I believe this means strengthening a relationship with our savior. We are saved by God to love and adore and worship our Creator. We are to follow God and to call God our "Abba" which is a close and personal relationship, not a distant one. As we grow closer to God, we begin to become passionate about the things God is passionate about and we want to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

I believe in God the Creator. I believe in Jesus Christ the Son. I believe in the Holy Spirit the sustainer. I love and adore God. I long to worship and serve God until God comes again or I am called home.

Statement of Faith - Robert Carnes - May 2007

God the Father is the Eternal One; the creator and sovereign judge of the creation. This Creation, which God called good, was made for His own glory and according to God's own purposes. God sustains the creation so that it will fulfill God's purposes and glorify Him. God is the Omnipotent, holy and jealous God and sin [that which does not glorify God] cannot exist near Him. God is also loving, who knowing the world would despise Him, sent His one and only begotten Son in order to satisfy God's holy judgment and restore the world's relationship with God.

Jesus Christ is my Lord, my bread, our answer and the salvation of the world. He is the Son of God, the visible image of the invisible God. He is our advocate, the sacrifice redeemer, the God-man who died in the world's place in order to free us from sin and sin's consequences. Jesus is the emancipator who bridged the chasm of sin between God and humanity and gives us the ability to glorify God. He is humanity's true friend as well as our king and wonderful counselor. Jesus is our future hope, for as He left the world, ascending into the sky, so shall He return in all the glory God the Father has bestowed on Him in order to make every wrong right and bring an end to this age of sin.

The Holy Spirit is the guide, the counselor and the consecrator. The Holy Spirit also reveals Himself and the purposes of God through the talents, actions and words of fellow Christians and non-Christians alike, through God's awesome creation, through mystical visions, and signs and wonders. The Spirit is the still small voice that leads, speaks and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures. Scripture is the witness to the Word (Jesus Christ) and its authority is confirmed in agreement with the Holy Spirit. This authority lies in its function as revelation from God and is unique in that God has provided it for us to judge and confirm other revelations by it. Discernment is the duty and privilege of all believers because of the shared quality of Scripture and the gracious anointing of the Holy Spirit on all those who profess Christ. Through Baptism we celebrate a believer's (or the young child of a believer) entrance into the life of the Spirit and the Christian community we call the universal church. Through Communion we celebrate, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual presence of Christ with, in and for us and the communion that we have with each other because of what Christ has done. The Holy Spirit also enables, empowers and encourages through other services of worship, works of service and mission.

The three persons of the Godhead are unique in personality yet they are one. This is the mystery of the Trinity. This is also an essential description for our human understanding of God.

Although created as good and well approved, humanity has experienced through freely willed acts a fall into sin. This sin is our inheritance and also what humans do that prevents them from fulfilling their destiny of glorifying God as God's creation. Sin ultimately causes death and therefore humanity needs atonement for sin. We need a conduit through which we, as sinful humanity, can glorify God. God has seen fit to extend us grace and love through which this atonement can be achieved.

This grace and love of our Creator is the root of the Christian faith. Scripture tells us of a consistent revelation of God through history, providing the law in order for self-identification of our sinful nature and the incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as God's method of justification for His creation. Jesus Christ's lordship of all creation, his life, death, burial and which demands a human response to confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in the heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. An obedient and repentant response to the Gospel [that is, God's actions to redeem His creation through Jesus Christ] is humanity's God-given role in His great act of redemption of all creation. It is what initiates justification and leads toward sanctification. This is begun by the Holy Spirit, through the church community, through the celebration of the

sacraments in communal worship, through a commitment to righteous living, and a recognition of the covenant between the Triune God and His elect people. This sanctification will not see earthly fruit but will finally be consummated when Jesus Christ returns in power at the end of all time.

Statement of Faith
Lindsey N. Carnes

I believe that God's story with us is ultimately one of love. God lovingly created the world and everything in it and said it was good. As humans we were made special in God's own image and given the responsibility to care for the world and each other. Our lives are inextricably bound to the one who created us, breathed life into us, placed us in communities, and who has given us commands to follow so we would live and prosper. In rebelliousness we deny the image of God in ourselves and others and carelessly disregard the world. Despite our disobedience, God made a way to restore the broken relationship first by making a covenant to bless all nations through the people of Israel and second by fulfilling that covenant in sending His Son Jesus Christ.

I believe God's story breaks into human history by the sending of the Son Jesus into the world to live with us and to proclaim that God's kingdom has come. Jesus was criticized for preaching this good news to the poor as well as the rich, for healing physical wounds as well as forgiving sin-sick soul wounds. The message seemed like blasphemy to some and political rebellion to others so he was crucified unjustly. He had experienced the joys of human life and now would experience the depths of suffering as he gave his life for the sins of the world. Despite what humanity meant for evil, God preordained Jesus' sacrifice to count as undeserved righteousness for us. But this is not the end of the story since God broke the power of sin and evil by raising Jesus from death to life and by grace assuring the same for us.

I believe that the same Holy Spirit that was present at creation and was present at Jesus' baptism and announced God's purpose and plan for Jesus' ministry, was the same one who called and inspired the prophets, illumines the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, gives us grace to accept faith in Jesus Christ, and strengthens us until Christ's return. I believe that the Bible is the authoritative word of God, instructing us how to live as followers of Jesus Christ with the aid of the Holy Spirit.

As followers of Christ and new creations I believe that we are the church united with believers in every time and place. It is God's will that we respond in thankful repentance for his grace, worshipping with our lives, receiving the sacraments, studying scripture, participating in the life of the church, practicing mutual admonition, and serving with our spiritual gifts. We celebrate two sacraments—baptism as a sign of incorporation into the body of believers and new life in Christ, and the Lord's Supper remembering that Jesus shed His blood for us for the forgiveness of our sins and that we live as a redeemed people. In response and thankfulness for what God has done for us in Christ, we preach the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, pray together and support one another, and go forth into the world to share Christ's love and compassion.

In our daily lives I believe that we worship the one true God of Israel, revealed to us in unity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, proclaiming God's story of love and salvation to all people.

Statement of Faith
Rev. Dr. Clark D. Cowden

I believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that God, in His very essence, is a missional God - a sending God. As Jesus said, the word you hear is not Mine, but that of the Father who sent Me. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in My name, he will teach you everything. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you (John 14:24,26, 20:21). We also read that “the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom He sent ahead of Him in pairs to every town and place where He Himself intended to go” (Luke 10:1). The very nature of God is that of a sending God. It is not just something God does, it is part of Who God is. Our primary calling in life is to be God’s “sent ones” in God’s world.

I believe in the incarnation, that Jesus was God in the flesh on earth, unique among all people who ever walked on earth. As Jesus came and “pitched his tent and lived among us”, so we are called to do the same. We are called to “feed the hungry, provide drinks to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison” (Matt. 25:35-36), so that “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Eph 2:10-11).

I believe that we are all sinners, by nature and by choice. The only way we can be forgiven of our sins is through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and His physical resurrection from the dead. We are justified through faith alone, in Christ alone, by the grace of God alone. We stand under scripture alone which is “inspired by God, and useful for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the one who belongs to God will be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

I believe that God “chose us in Him before the foundations of the world to be holy and blameless before Him” (Eph 1:4). I believe that we did not choose Christ, but Christ chose us and appointed us to go and bear fruit, commanding us to love one another, and to do what He has commanded us (John 15:16,17,14). We are called to live in a covenant relationship with God, being the salt and light of the world (Matt 5:16-17). We do not own anything, but we are called to be stewards of what belongs to God which God has entrusted to us to use for His kingdom.

I believe the church is called to be the missional community of believers of Jesus Christ. The very nature and essence of the church is to send Jesus’ followers into the world to extend the reign of God here on earth. I believe the North American church has been colonized by our culture, and that we must disentangle ourselves from our cultural influences, in order to recover our intended calling in this world. I believe in the sacrament of baptism as a sign and seal of our faith, signifying how Christ can wash away our sins when we put our faith and trust in Him. I believe in the sacrament of communion, as a sign and seal of our faith, where we can experience the spiritual presence of Christ, remembering His last supper with the disciples, and how He laid down His life for our sins and our forgiveness.