

*Statement of Faith*  
*Elizabeth Crews*

I believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons; the everlasting Father, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit, sent to guide us into all truth.

God the Father is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, and measureless in power. God is love and therefore all that He does is loving. God demonstrated His great love for all people by sending His Son to die for our sins so that we might have eternal life with God in heaven.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, being both true god and true man, existing in one person and without sin. In obedience to his father's will, Jesus humbled himself, came to earth in human flesh, and lived a sinless life so that he could become the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people. He was bodily resurrected from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God, interceding for the saints. Jesus is the only way to a right relationship with God in this life and eternal life with God in the next.

The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment and leads God's people into all truth. The Spirit dwells by faith in all who confess Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, empowering them to turn from their sins, produce fruit in keeping with repentance, and live lives pleasing to God as they grow in grace and knowledge under the Spirit's direction. The Spirit helps in our weakness, enables us to understand the Scriptures, and equips us for service and witness.

I believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are God's communication to humankind, written by men, but directed and inspired by God through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Scriptures are our final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

I believe that God created Adam and Eve in the image of God, distinct from all other living creatures, and in a state of original righteousness. Our first parents, representing the entire human race, sinned against God's revealed will. As a result all human beings are born with a sinful nature that predisposes them to sin in thought, word, and deed.

Satan, sin, and the powers of evil all exist; yet all these have been defeated by God in the cross of Christ. Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as our representative and substitutionary sacrifice, triumphing over all evil. All who believe in their hearts that Jesus died to save them from a life of sin and darkness are justified by His shed blood. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become beloved children of God.

I believe that the universal Church is the body of Christ and is composed of the communities of Christ's people. God, in Christ, is reconciling the world to Himself and has given His people the ministry of reconciliation. It is our responsibility to proclaim the gospel of God's redemptive love to the ends of the earth in both word and deed.

Baptism and Communion are the two Sacraments of the church. In these two sacraments, three ordinary elements of life—water, bread, and wine—become basic symbols of our life in Christ. We are united with Christ in Baptism; at Communion we join with the saints in every age to give thanks for our salvation in Christ. In Baptism we participate in Christ's death and resurrection. We die to all that separates us from God, are cleansed in Christ's blood, and buried with him unto death, that we might rise with him and walk in newness of life. Baptism unites us with Jesus Christ and makes us members of God's family, the church. As God's chosen people eat the bread and drink of the cup, they receive the sustaining presence of Christ, remember God's covenant promises, pledge their obedience anew, and anticipate with joy the day when Christ will return to take his faithful people to be with him throughout eternity.

I believe in the blessed hope that Jesus Christ will return to this earth, personally, visibly and unexpectedly, in power and great glory, to gather His elect, to raise the dead, to judge the nations, and to bring His Kingdom to fulfillment.