



## MISSION PRESBYTERY

### BETTER TOGETHER

October 10, 2019

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It hardly seems like one year ago that I was installed as the newest moderator of Mission Presbytery. It's been an honor to serve in this capacity and I've enjoyed all of it: chairing presbytery meetings, attending General Council, speaking at churches, and best of all, installing and ordaining new Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastors who now serve beside us.

I cordially invite you to our final 2019 stated meeting of Mission Presbytery, which will take place October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Thank you, Rev. Jim DeMent, for being our host pastor.

We are creating a wonderful tradition in our Presbytery called "Mission Doing Mission." Last year's experience in Mission, TX was such a big success we've decided to repeat it in 2019. In the following pages, you will see all of the wonderful ways we can serve God's children side by side as fellow Presbyterians.

Additional highlights of our time together will include special greetings and presentations by Charles and Melissa Johnson, Mission Co-workers from Zambia; Sharon Bryant, Mission Co-worker from Thailand; and Valerie Young, our Synod Executive from the Synod of the Sun. Three candidates for the ministry will be examined for ordination and one will be examined to serve as a Commission Pastor. In addition, our various committees will report on their important work and my last duty as moderator will be to install Rev. Stacy Ikard, Senior Associate Pastor, Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, as our new Moderator.

In closing, and on a personal note, 2019 has been a special year for me because I celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination in August. As such, I'm going to use this as my personal challenge to my fellow Ministers of Word and Sacrament to join me in making a donation to Mission Presbytery's "Shared Mission Support" fund. I'm going to donate \$300, or \$10 for each year of ordained service. I invite you to join me in making a pledge that is personal and joyful for you! As our membership is in the Presbytery, let's support the Presbytery and Church we all love.

Collegially yours in Christ,

*Peter Crouch*

Rev. Peter D. Crouch  
Moderator



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2408 N. Navarro – Victoria, Texas 77901 – 361.575.2441 – [info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)

[www.fpcovictoria.org](http://www.fpcovictoria.org)

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October 2, 2019

Dear Mission Presbytery Family,

On behalf of all your Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ who worship in the South Central area of Texas (known to us as the “Crossroads Area”), it is my privilege and my joy to invite you to join us at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas for the October meeting of Mission Presbytery on October 25 and 26, 2019. Accompanying this letter is a list of the Presbyterian Churches in the Crossroads Area, and I will be the first to declare that without their help, devotion, and contributions of time, energy, and effort, we could not have completed the logistics involved in this meeting. FPC, Victoria will be the place where we meet, but your hosts are all of us in the Crossroads Area. We are happy you are coming to be with us!

And speaking of where we will meet, FPC, Victoria is excited to welcome you to our fully restored house of worship which suffered extensive damage just a little over two years ago as Hurricane Harvey ripped through this area. Other area churches suffered mightily as well, and they remain in our hearts and prayers for recovery. In our own circumstances, we now know that the property damage we suffered required over a million dollars to repair. Of course, it takes more than money to build (or rebuild!) a church. The members of FPC, Victoria prayed hard, worked hard, and worshiped faithfully for nearly 18 months in our uninsulated Fellowship Hall, while, trusting in the Holy Spirit, we found our way to recovery-- with a lot of help from Mission Presbytery and from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

During this Presbytery meeting, as you work and worship with us at FPC, Victoria, please look around and appreciate the healing and restorative power of God not only in the rebuilding of bricks and mortar, but also in the rebuilding of lives. To showcase our spectacular new organ, we will offer a traditional worship service on Friday afternoon. As we come to the table of God to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we will place a special emphasis on the ministry of music in the lives of God’s worshipping people.

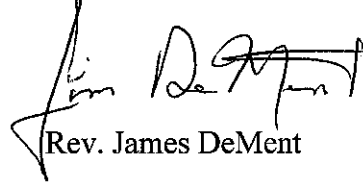
Happily, as we gather together-- to be better together-- we will also find time to serve our triune God by supporting, with our donations of time and material goods, a representative sampling of charitable agencies (some religious, some secular) in the Victoria community that work tirelessly to serve the hungry, the destitute, and the addicted. In the spirit of interfaith understanding and acceptance, we will also provide an opportunity to visit the Victoria Islamic Center. Elsewhere in your registration packet you will have an opportunity to sign up to visit

(either off-site or on our church campus) these various organizations who are looking forward to your visit. Please note their respective requests for donations to support their particular mission.

Finally, there is an expression that appears to have lost favor of late in our culture, namely, "Texas hospitality." Nevertheless, here in the Crossroads Area, where very few PC(U.S.A.) churches have even 50 members on their active roles, your brothers and sisters in Christ have been steeped in the tradition of hospitality all our lives. Of course, the tradition did not start in Texas; it is found in Biblical warrant ("Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" [Hebrews 13:2].) So, please join us for some Christian hospitality-- Crossroads style!-- in Victoria, Texas later this month. We will fill the snack tables and the lunch tables to refresh our bodies, and we will pray that, as we encounter old friends and make new ones, God will be among us to refresh our lives.

Travel mercies as you come and go from this meeting; blessings as you and all your welcoming friends in the Crossroads Area go about the work of the Lord while we are together.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim DeMent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, the name "Rev. James DeMent" is printed in a standard serif font.

P.S.: Convenient directions to FPC, Victoria can be found on the homepage of our website, [www.fpcfvtoria.org](http://www.fpcfvtoria.org). We will have volunteers to direct parking on our premises as well as, if needed, an overflow lot close by-- but of course, the best way to avoid parking problems is to arrive early!

CROSSROADS (VICTORIA) REGION of PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES (U.S.A.)  
(Listed Alphabetically by City)

**CHEAPSIDE**

Cheapside Presbyterian Church  
7141 FM 2067  
Cuero, TX 77954

**COLLEGEPORT**

First Presbyterian Church  
101 Williams Rd.  
Collegeport, TX 77428

**CUERO**

First Presbyterian Church  
302 N. McLeod St.  
Cuero, TX 77954

**EL CAMPO**

First Presbyterian Church  
203 W. Calhoun  
El Campo, TX 77437

**GOLIAD**

Goliad Presbyterian Church  
P. O. 617  
Goliad, TX 77963

**GONZALES**

The Presbyterian Church of Gonzales  
414 St. Louis Street  
Gonzales TX, 78629-4030

**PALACIOS**

Second Presbyterian Fellowship of Palacios (AKA Casa De Dios)  
P. O. Box 92  
Palacios, TX 77465

First Presbyterian Church – 361-972-2124  
501 3rd Street  
Palacios, TX 77465



## **PORT LAVACA**

### **First Presbyterian Church**

1111 N. Virginia St.  
Port Lavaca, TX 77979

### **Six Mile Presbyterian Church**

345 Royal Road,  
Port Lavaca, TX 77979

## **SCHULENBURG**

### **St. Paul's Presbyterian Church**

712 Summit  
Schulenburg, TX 78956

## **SMILEY**

### **Pilgrim Presbyterian Church**

c/o P.O. Box 359  
Gonzales, TX, 78629

## **TIVOLI**

### **Tivoli Presbyterian Church**

P. O. Box 237  
Tivoli, TX 77990

## **VICTORIA**

### **First Presbyterian Church**

2408 N. Navarro,  
Victoria, TX 77901  
[www.fpcofvictoria.org](http://www.fpcofvictoria.org)

### **Grace Presbyterian Church**

3604 N. Ben Jordan  
Victoria, TX 77901

### **Nicea Presbyterian Church**

401 De Leon & Church St.  
Victoria, TX 77901

## **YORKTOWN**

### **First Presbyterian Church**

P. O. Box 123G,  
Yorktown, TX 78164



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[www.fpcfvictoria.org](http://www.fpcfvictoria.org)

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## Victoria Area Hotels

The bad news is that there are no hotels within 5 minutes of FPC, Victoria. The good news is that *nothing* in Victoria is further than 15 minutes from FPC, Victoria. Although perhaps 10 to 15 minutes away, the better hotels are these:

### Baymont Inn & Suites

8107 NE Zac Lentz Parkway  
Victoria, Texas 77904  
361.894.8909

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/baymont/victoria-texas/baymont-inn-and-suites-victoria/overview?CID=LC:BU::GGL:RIO:National:47698&iata=00093796>

### Best Western PLUS Victoria

8106 NE Zac Lentz Parkway  
Victoria, Texas 77905  
361.485.2300

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.44562.html?iata=00171880&ssob=BLBWI0004G&cid=BLBWI0004G:google:gm:44562](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.44562.html?iata=00171880&ssob=BLBWI0004G&cid=BLBWI0004G:google:gm:44562)

### Candlewood Suites

7103 N. Navarro  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361.578.0236

[https://www.ihg.com/candlewood/hotels/us/en/victoria/vcthy/hoteldetail?cm\\_mmc=GoogleMaps--CW--US--VCTHY](https://www.ihg.com/candlewood/hotels/us/en/victoria/vcthy/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--CW--US--VCTHY)

### Comfort Inn & Suites

6603 NE Zac Lentz Parkway  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361.894.6480

<https://www.choicehotels.com/texas/victoria/comfort-inn-hotels/txf83?source=gyxt>

Courtyard by Marriott  
8002 N. Navarro Street  
Victoria, Texas 77904  
361.578.3945

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/vctcy-courtyard-victoria/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

Days Inn  
6203 Dairy Road  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361.894.8644

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/victoria-texas/days-inn-victoria/overview?CID=LC:DI::GGL:RIO:National:46471&iata=00093796>

Fairfield Inn and Suites  
7502 N. Navarro  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361.582.0660

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/vctfi-fairfield-inn-and-suites-victoria/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

Hampton Inn  
7006 N. Navarro  
Victoria, TX 77904  
361.573.9911

[https://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hampton-inn-victoria-VCTTXHX/index.html?SEO\\_id=GMB-HP-VCTTXHX](https://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hampton-inn-victoria-VCTTXHX/index.html?SEO_id=GMB-HP-VCTTXHX)

Hilton Garden Inn  
123 Huvar Street  
Victoria, Texas 77901  
361.573.0303

[https://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-garden-inn-victoria-VCTHSGI/index.html?SEO\\_id=GMB-HI-VCTHSGI](https://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-garden-inn-victoria-VCTHSGI/index.html?SEO_id=GMB-HI-VCTHSGI)

Holiday Inn Express

111 Huvar Street

Victoria, TX 77904

361.575.1600

[https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/victoria/vctex/hoteldetail?cm\\_mmc=GoogleMaps\\_-EX\\_-US\\_-VCTEX](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/victoria/vctex/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps_-EX_-US_-VCTEX)

Homewood Suites Hilton

6705 NE Zac Lentz Parkway

Victoria, TX 77904

361.578.1900

[https://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/homewood-suites-by-hilton-victoria-tx-VCTJSHW/index.html?SEO\\_id=GMB-HW-VCTJSHW](https://homewoodsuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/homewood-suites-by-hilton-victoria-tx-VCTJSHW/index.html?SEO_id=GMB-HW-VCTJSHW)

La Quinta Inn by Windham

7603 N. Navarro Street

Victoria, Texas 77904

361.572.3585

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta/victoria-texas/la-quinta-inn-victoria/overview?CID=LC:LQ::GGL:RIO:National:53438&iata=00093796>

Victoria Super 8

8001 NE Zac Lentz Parkway

Victoria, TX 77904

361.575.0838

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/victoria-texas/super-8-victoria-north-mall-area/overview?CID=LC:SE::GGL:RIO:National:10228&iata=00093796>



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## Some Favorite Restaurants of Victoria Locals\*

### Fossati's Delicatessen

302 S. Main Street

Victoria, TX 77901

361-576-3354

<https://www.facebook.com/Fossatis-Delicatessen>

### Huvar's Artisan Market

110 W. Juan Linn

Victoria, TX 77901

361-576-9171

<http://huvars.com/>

### Joe's Pizza & Pasta

601 E. Mockingbird Lane

Victoria, TX 77904

361-579-3225

<https://www.facebook.com/victoriajoespizza/>

### Noot's Thai Kitchen

6360 N. Navarro

Victoria, TX 77904

361-578-8424

<http://www.nootsthaikitchen.com/>

### The PumpHouse

201 W. Stayton

Victoria, TX 77901

361-572-9800

<http://www.victoriapumphouse.com/>

### Sky Restaurant

236 Foster Field Drive

Victoria, TX 77905

361-576-5335

<https://www.skyrestaurant.com/>

### Tokyo Grill & Sushi Lounge

5006 N. Navarro

Victoria, TX 77904

361-570-7227

<https://www.facebook.com/tokyogrillvtx/>

### Vela Farms on the Square

104 N. Main Street

Victoria, TX 77901

361-649-8352

<https://www.facebook.com/VelaFarms/>

### Ventura's Tamales

3907 N. Navarro

Victoria, TX 77901

361-578-5161

<https://venturastamales.com/>

### Yummy Finds & Eatery

402 Salem Road

Victoria, TX 77904

361-572-0225

<https://www.yummyfinds.org/>

\*Helpful hint: Some of these restaurants are open only for lunch or only for dinner. It is best to phone or to check websites before you go.



MISSION  
PRESBYTERY  
PRESENTS

# 3P EVENT

PRACTICES, PREPARATION,  
PRESBYTERIAN

A RULING ELDERS GATHERING

Jan. 31 - Feb. 1, 2019  
John Knox Ranch

## Workshops On:

- Practices for Church Finances
- Practices for Church Rentals
- Preparation for Church Safety
- Preparation for Natural Disasters
- Fellowship like all good Presbyterians!

## Contact:

[statedclerk@missionpby.com](mailto:statedclerk@missionpby.com)  
210-826-3296

This event is held in cooperation with the Synod of the Sun,  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, The Insurance Board, Mission  
Presbytery's Education and Congregation Nurture Committee.



MISSION PRESBYTERY

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# CONFIRMATION RETREAT

*For youth and their sponsors  
participating in the confirmation  
process at their church.*

February 21-23, 2020

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JOHN KNOX RANCH

1661 JOHN KNOX ROAD

FISCHER, TX 78623

\$95 per person

We will explore the Trinity and the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church. This weekend retreat is meant to supplement the confirmation program at your local church.

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More info and registration to follow. Contact Caitlin Supcoff at [youth@missionpby.org](mailto:youth@missionpby.org) with questions.

MISSION PRESBYTERY  
PRESENTS



# MIDWINTERS YOUTH CONFERENCES

Mo Ranch, Hunt, TX

January 12-14, 2020

January 17-19, 2020

Both BLENDED conferences  
for 6th-12th graders



Romans 12:3-11



Cost is \$160 per person (youth and adult). Payment due upon registration. Can be made via credit card or check.







# HOW TO REGISTER

1. Download the attached spreadsheet. Email [youth@missionpby.org](mailto:youth@missionpby.org) if you need one.
2. Fill out spreadsheet with all of your participants' information.
3. Email your completed spreadsheet as an attachment back to [youth@missionpby.org](mailto:youth@missionpby.org).  
You will receive email confirmation.
4. Pay via link on Mission Presbytery website or with check sent to: Midwinters 2020 c/o Mission Presbytery 7209 Broadway Suite 303, San Antonio, TX 78209.
5. Distribute and collect signed covenant and permission/waiver forms from each participant.
6. Bring two copies of participant forms to Mo-Ranch. One for Caitlin and one for your adult sponsors.
7. Registration deadline is **December 16, 2019**.
8. Housing assignments will be made based on group size and availability.

## IMPORTANT INFO

Eight \$50 Sylvia Washer Scholarships are available. Applications available at [www.mission-presbytery.org](http://www.mission-presbytery.org).



Refunds will not be issued fewer than 14 days prior to conference.

Please clearly indicate dietary restrictions and other special needs on spreadsheet.



## SPONSORS

All adult sponsors must have updated background checks.

Adult to youth ratio is at least 1 adult for every 5 youth. Please make male and female sponsors in proportion to youth attending.

Guests are not permitted unless registered for the event.



Got questions? Contact Caitlin Supcoff at [youth@missionpby.org](mailto:youth@missionpby.org).



### 1) Search

- Enter church name or tap *Find Churches Near Me* to start your search
- Select your church
- Your selected church will be displayed as your default church
- Tap *Donate Now*

### 2) Select

- Choose a fund and a preset amount or enter another amount
- Select *Add* to add another fund or move forward to the payment information
- Scan or enter your card or banking account information

### 3) Submit

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$25.00 One Time
Building Fund	\$30.00 One Time
Community Outreach	\$100.00 One Time
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155.00</b>

- Review your donation summary then select *Complete Donation*

Access more features ➞

### Create

- It only takes a few minutes to create an account with an email address and password
- You'll have the option to log in using the Touch ID/Fingerprint feature or a PIN

### Manage

- Tap the menu icon to manage personal information, change password, review donations or update/add payment methods

### Schedule

- Next time you donate, tap *Select Frequency* to create a recurring weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or annual donation to the fund(s) of your choice
- Note:** Your church determines frequency options

### Review

Next Payment	Frequency	Amount
07/25/17	Biweekly	\$5
07/26/17	Biweekly	\$9
07/25/17	Monthly	\$6
07/26/17	Weekly	\$7

General Fund \$4  
Community Outreach \$3  
Start Date 07/26/17  
End Date None  
Payment Method \*\*\*\* 8585

- From the menu, go to *Recurring Donations* to view or delete any scheduled donation made through the Give+ app
- Or, select *Giving History* to review your past Give+ donations

## Fall/Annual 2019 Presbytery Meeting

October 25-26, 2019

### Thursday, October 24

5:00-6:30	Registration Open	Hallway
6:30	General Council Meeting	

### Friday, October 25

8:00-4:00	Registration Open	Hallway
8:00-Close	Exhibit Hall	Fellowship Hall

8:00 – Close	Prayer Room	Session Room
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9:00am	Presbytery Convenes	Sanctuary
	- Welcome and Introductions	Rev. Peter Crouch
	- Opening Motions	

9:30-3:00	Mission Doing Mission Projects	
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3:30pm	Worship	Sanctuary
4:30pm	Mission Co-Workers - Zambia Report	Charles & Melissa Johnson
4:45pm	Mission Co-Worker - Thailand Report	Sharon Bryant
5:00pm	Order of the Day – Commission on Ministry	Rev. Dan Fultz

### Saturday, October 26

8:00am	Registration Open	Hallway
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8:30am	Meeting reconvened	Sanctuary
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- Opening Prayer

8:40am	Presbytery Business	
	- General Presbyter Report	Rev. Sallie Watson
	- General Council Report	Judy Ferguson
	- Stewardship & Fiscal Oversight Report	Rita Livingston
	- John Knox Ranch Report	Henry Owen
	- Committee on Representation & Participation Report	Kris Bair
	- Mission, Outreach & Justice Report	Tom O'Meara
	- Overture to General Assembly	Rev. Tricia Tedrow

9:45am	Order of the Day – Break	
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10:00am	Presbytery Business	
	- Committee on the Preparation for Ministry	Rev. Kathy Escandell

	- Trustees Report	Scott Russell
	- Synod of the Sun Greetings	Valerie Young
	- Pastoral Care Committee Report	Rev. Carol Rahn
	- Education & Congregational Nurture Report	Sandy Pinaire
	- Youth and Young Adult Advocate Report	Caitlin Supcoff
	- Youth Connection Committee Report	Rev. Katy Walters
	- Disaster Preparedness Directorate Report	Ed Sackett
11:00am	Installation of New Moderator Stacy Ikard	Rev. Peter Crouch
11:15am	Stated Clerk's Report	Rev. Tricia Tedrow
11:30am	Adjournment	Rev. Stacy Ikard

**Mission Presbytery  
Commission on Ministry  
Report to Presbytery  
October 25-26, 2019**

The Commission on Ministry, in its capacity as a commission of Mission Presbytery, has taken the following actions since those reported at the last Presbytery Meeting:

**Ruling of the GAPJC**

Marie Baker, member of the Committee on Counsel, spoke to the COM regarding the ruling of the GAPJC on the remedial complaint filed against Mission Presbytery by Rev. Dr. David Jones for the action of COM regarding the transitional pastor position at First, Georgetown. Following her report and in light of the ruling of the GAPJC the COM approved the following action:

That COM adopt as soon as practical, a written policy whereby any member of the commission must recuse him or herself on any matter subject to motion and approval by the commission in which the member may have a conflict of interest, including a pecuniary interest. Further, the commission and its members make every effort in the intervening time, prior to the preparation and adoption of the written policy, to comply with the spirit and practical application of a healthy recusal process.

The Commission thanked Marie Baker and Tom Currie for their hard-work and diligent care in this matter.

**Evotes:**

- To sustain examination for Rev. Charlie Hornes (member-at-large) and Rev. Seth Saathoff (Holy Trinity, San Antonio).
- To sustain examination for Rev. Bobby Hulme-Lippert (First, Georgetown).

**Terms of Call/Contracts:**

- Rick Carlson & Goliad (CP, part-time, effective 6/23/19)  
Compensation:  

Salary	16,800
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Reimbursables:  

Auto	7,800
Con. Ed/Books	500
Professional	200
- Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo & Presbyterian Mission Agency (Effective 6/1/19)  
Compensation:  

Salary	59,375.02
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- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Housing   | 25,600             |
| Benefits: |                    |
| BOP       | Full participation |
- Chuck Kimball & First, Port Lavaca/First, Palacios (stated supply, effective 7/1/19)  
 Compensation:
 

Salary	20,417.73
Housing	25,000

 Benefits:
 

BOP	16,804.56
½ SECA	3,762.27
  - Anne Kowalczyk (UCC) & Island (stated supply, part-time, effective 5/31/19)  
 Compensation:
 

Salary	55,000
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 Reimbursables:
 

Auto	IRS rate
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  - Miles White & First, Rockport (interim, effective 6/1/19)  
 Compensation:
 

Salary	31,570
Housing	12,000

 Benefits:
 

BOP	5,228.40
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 Reimbursables:
 

Auto	761,20
Con. Ed/Book	500
Professional	250
  - Carl McCauley & Gonzales (interim, ¾ time, effective 8/1/19)  
 Compensation:
 

Salary	28,500
Housing	9,000
403b(Employee)	5,000

 Benefits:
 

BOP	5,100
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 Reimbursables:
 

Auto	5,000
Professional	1,800
  - Seth Saathoff & Holy Trinity (effective 9/9/19)  
 Compensation:
 

Salary	33,000
Housing	22,000

## Benefits:

BOP	Full participation
½ SECA	4,704.75

## Reimbursables:

Professional	3,000
Moving	4,000
Other (transition)	2,500

- Carolina Trevino & Central, Austin (associate, effective 4/8/19)

## Compensation:

Salary	37,000
Housing	22,000

## Benefits:

BOP	Full participation
½ SECA	4,513.50

## Reimbursables:

Professional	2,500
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- Cazden Minter & Live Oak (effective 9/1/19)

## Compensation:

Salary	15774.04
Housing	34,500

## Benefits:

BOP	18,601.39
½ SECA	3,845.96

- Ezequiel Herrera & Mission Presbytery (CP Evangelist, effective 7/1/19)

## Compensation:

Salary	2,917 monthly
Housing	35,000

## Benefits:

BOP	Full participation
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## Reimbursables:

Auto	2,000
Continuing Ed.	2,000
Other (phone, etc)	5,620

- Charlotte Trafton & Westminster, Austin (Stated Supply Assoc. part-time, effective 1/13/19)

## Compensation:

Salary	6,1800
Housing	18,540

## Benefits:

Retirement	2,719
½ SECA	2,048



- |                |       |  |
|----------------|-------|--|
| Reimbursables: |       |  |
| Professional   | 1,875 |  |
- John Brantley & St. Andrew, Marble Falls (effective 2/1/19)
 

Compensation:		
Salary	37,170	
Housing	18,900	
Benefits:		
BOP	20,748	
½ SECA	4,290	
Reimbursables:		
Professional	1,000	
  - Stacy Ikard & Westlake Hills (Associate, effective 3/3/19)
 

Compensation:		
Salary	92,000	
Benefits:		
BOP	Full participation	
½ SECA	6,965	
  - Jennifer Mitchell & First, Karnes City (effective 1/1/19)
 

Compensation:		
Salary	37,000	
Manse Value	12,000	
Benefits:		
BOP	Full participation	
½ SECA	3,748	
Reimbursables:		
Auto	1,200	
Con. Ed/Books	2,000	
Professional	2,000	
  - Rebecca Longino & New Covenant Fellowship (Stated Supply, part-time, effective 4/1/19)
 

Compensation:		
Housing	9,500	
EOC to Retirement	18,500	
Benefits:		
BOP	3,360	
Reimbursables:		
Con. Ed/Book	1,500	
Professional	900	
  - John Roberts (UCC) & Grace, Corpus (effective 5/1/19)
 

Compensation:		
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Salary	20,000
Housing	89,049
Additional	3,840
Reimbursables:	
Auto	5,000

- Clint Regan & Wimberley (effective 1/1/18)

Compensation:

Salary	50,600
Housng	29,000

Benefits:

BOP	Full participation
½ SECA	13,250

Reimbursables:

Auto	2,000
Con. Ed/Book	3,900

- Kim Smith-Stanley & Round Rock (effective 8/20/18)

Compensation:

Salary	20,500
Housing	42,000

Benefits:

BOP	23,125
½ SECA	4,781

Reimbursable:

Professional	3,868
Dental	1,632

Triennial Visits Completed:

- San Gabriel, Georgetown on May 30, 2019 by TE Miranda Fontaine and TE Jeff Saddington.
- New Covenant Fellowship, Austin on July 14, 2019 by TE Miranda Fontaine and TE Nancy McCranie.
- First, El Campo on September 23, 2019 by RE Bonnie Wilkinson and TE Dan Fultz.
- Los Angeles Heights.
- First, Cuero, August 7, 2019 by RE Bonnie Wilkinson and RE Robert Serrata
- Pilgram, Smiley, September 8, 2019 by RE Bonnie Wilkinson and TE Bill Cotman

Ordination/Installations:

- To approve the Administrative Commission to install Doug Dalglish at St. Andrew, San Antonio on June 2, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.:  
TE Peter Crouch (to moderate/ask constitutional questions)  
TE Sonja Dalglish (to charge the pastor)

TE Sallie Watson (to preach/charge the congregation)  
RE Marilyn Arehart, Canyon Lake (to lead installation prayer)  
RE Davy Goff, St. Andrew (to ask congregational questions)  
RE Karen Dalglish Seal, Oak Hills

- To dismiss the Administrative Commission to install Doug Dalglish at St. Andrew, San Antonio.
- To approve the Administrative Commission to install Carolina Trevino as associate pastor at Central, Austin on September 8, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.:  
TE Sam Riccobene (to preside/ask constitutional questions)  
TE Sallie Watson (to charge the congregation)  
TE Nancy Benson-Nicol (to charge the pastor)  
RE Rita Livingston, Central Austin (to lead the installation prayer)  
RE Dan Baird, First Austin  
RE Joe Denton, Covenant Austin (to ask congregational questions)  
Guests:  
TE Kathryn Barlow-Williams (to preach the sermon)
- To dismiss the Administrative Commission to install Carolina Trevino at Central, Austin.

Validated Ministry:

- Validated ministry of chaplain for Peterson Hospice currently held by Susan Montoya.
- Validated ministry of Director of the Sol Center at University Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, currently held by Dhawn Martin.

Dismissals:

- To dismiss Steve Shullanberger as a member at large to Riverside Presbytery, California.

Other Actions:

- To approve the Parish Associate Agreement between New Covenant Fellowship, Austin and TE Jeff Saddington.
- To approved revisions to the Stated Supply contract.
- Congratulations to Crestholme PC, San Antonio for receiving an award from the Food Bank.
- First, El Campo has received a grant called ReBoot to revitalize their youth ministry.
- To approve CP Kris Bair to serve communion at El Divino for Advent and Christmas eve.

For Information:

- Rev. George Kluber (HR) died on July 20, 2019 in Fredericksburg. A private family service is being planned.
- Rev. David Moore (HR) died on July 11, 2019 in Davis, California. A service is being planned for September in CA.

Examinations:

- Sustain the examination for Larry Sears as CP for Grace, San Antonio.
- Sustain the examination for ordination of Megan McMillan.
- Sustain the examination for ordination of Susan Montoya.
- Sustain the examination for ordination of Dhawn Martin.

## Journey of Faith – Larry Sears – Grace Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

I would say that it is impossible in 1 to 2 pages to talk about what wonderful things God has done for me in my many years of life. If you would like to find out more about these things, I would love to sit down and tell you about them. But in the meantime here are some highlights.

A neighbor invited me to church when I was about 5 and I started going regularly. It was a small Episcopal mission. The first time I can remember praying was when I was about 6, and I was sitting on the front porch of our house. My dad had left, and I realized that he wasn't coming back. No one had told me that, but I knew he wouldn't be home again. The prayer was simple, "God what happens now that I don't have a dad?" The response was immediate, "It's OK. I'll be your daddy." Problem solved, and I jumped up from the porch and went off to play.

I would like to say that I realized then what a wonderful truth the Lord had revealed to me, but I went through all the normal things a youngster in the 50s would go through. It wasn't until I went in the Air Force and was stationed at a remote site on the eastern side of Turkey that I began to seek the Lord and learn about him. He sent me there away from all the usual distractions. (My mom said I should have been in the Navy because she accused me of having a girl in every airport.)

Trabzon Turkey was not westernized like the western side of Turkey. Ataturk had passed away before his changes reached the east. The Turks in Trabzon didn't even like Turks from other parts of their country, so you know where we Americans stood. I met 2 men that were meeting regularly for prayer and asked if I could join them. I bought my first study Bible during this time and spent time reading and praying about what I read. I began to see a picture of what the grace of God was like, and I also began to realize what He had promised me when I was sitting on the steps at our house.

One day, taking some time off with some friends, I was walking the beach of the Black Sea about 50 miles from the Russian border when they called me over to meet a young boy. He handed me a shell and told me his sister, who was standing about 50 feet away, wanted me to have the shell. (She couldn't approach us since she was Muslim.) After thanking her through her brother we left. When I got back to the base I was thinking how odd that had been. I was then given my first prayer assignment. The Lord told me to pray for her whenever I saw the shell. Over the years I prayed that she would be able to get an education, that she would be able to marry someone she loved, and that she would get to know the God Who loves her. Several years ago while praying for her, the Lord told me that He had done all that I had asked and then even more for her. (I still have the shell sitting where I can see it regularly and pray for her.)

Another time I was given a prayer assignment was after I was discharged from the Air Force. I worked at a bank in California. I was the collector for the 4 branches. After about 6 months I was complaining to God that the past due list was still around 25% of all loans. I told Him, I knew all their stories. Family problems, job losses, health problems and several other reasons they were all behind on their payments. The Lord told me He wanted me to begin to pray for them. Bring those problems to Him and watch what He does. Every Monday when the past due list came out, I spent the day praying for each person on the list. Within a year and a half the past due accounts were down to 1.5% of all loans. He had helped each one of those people.

When I started my own business 32 years ago, I began to not only help my clients with their technology problems and questions, but I began to minister to them. I did hospital visits if client employees were

sick. I spent time in prayer for them when I heard of a problem they might be having. I have prayed for my clients' businesses. Sometimes I have prayed with my clients, and sometimes for them without them knowing it. I realized that ministry for the Lord doesn't happen just from the pulpit, or from the pastor, but it is all of us working as we are called to bring the kingdom of God to the people, where ever they might be.

Over the last few years I have attended the Dunvegan Foundation meetings in Alexandria, Va. on the first weekend of December. I was the chairman for 4 years, and after I resigned as chairman, I am still on the board. We give grants and scholarships to organizations that have Scottish studies. Once while I was back there the Lord told me to spend Saturday at the capitol building praying for our leaders. For the past 4 years I do that. There is a place I can sit in the capitol and not be bothered by anyone as I pray. I take a list of cabinet members, White House staff, chief justices, senators, representatives, the president and administrative branch members and lift them up to the Lord. I ask for Him to give them wisdom, and understanding. Help them to make just laws, and to interpret those laws fairly.

I have had the privilege to preach at Grace Presbyterian Church. In 2013 their pastor was not able to perform her duties because of ill health. After I received my Certified Ruling Elder certificate, I was asked by Mission Presbytery to moderate their session meetings. When their pastor passed away I preached some and made hospital visits until the new pastor was called. I have continued to minister at Grace on a regular basis when the pastor is out of town.

In the past year and a half, I have had the joy of being part of a 3 man ministry team that ministers at Crestholme Presbyterian Church. The 3 of us have talked about how the Lord has used Crestholme to teach me and train me to better understand the needs and desires of an active congregation.

To sum up my journey of faith, as I get older, and hopefully wiser, I see and understand more and more what a wonderful promise the Lord gave me when He said, "I will be your daddy."

### Statement of Faith – Larry Sears

I believe God the Father loves us as dear children. It is the Father Who calls us by grace and mercy even though we have rebelled against Him and rejected His ways. He teaches us to walk with Him. He heals us and leads us with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. He takes us in his arms and He lifts us to His cheek as a mother would lift her child.

I believe Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God lived on this earth as a visual sign of God's love. By His life He showed us that God loves all of us. He put a face to the grace and mercy of God. Never condemning us, but showing compassion and love to all; sometimes in acts of kindness, and sometimes in acts of correction. Jesus even went to the cross and gave His life so that we could be free to live life as God desires us too. In going to the cross and leaving us, He was able to send back the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the Holy Spirit, Who was at the beginning with the Father and the Son guides us into all truth. Truth as described in written Scriptures. It is the Spirit of God that God places in us that seals us into the family of God, and brings to remembrance those things that Jesus did and taught when He was God Incarnate walking this earth to show us the love, and the grace of God. It is the Spirit Who teaches us to know the will of God for our own lives.

I believe that by daily prayer, regular study of the Scriptures, and fellowship with others in the Body of Christ, we can fulfill the call that the Lord has placed on each of our lives. We may not all be called to preach, or teach, but we are all called to love God and love our neighbors. God has asked us to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Him. If we live by the faith of the Son of God, and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will show the love of God to a hurting world.

Regarding the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, I believe that both of these allow us to strengthen the relationship that we have with one another and with God.

In baptism we are claimed by God, sealed into the Body of Christ by water and the Holy Spirit. We are freed from sin and death. We are united with Christ in His death and resurrection. In the baptism service, the congregation is invited to remember their baptism, and asked to accept the charge to help, encourage and guide by word and deed the one who is being baptized. These things bring a greater unity to the Body of Christ.

As we partake of the bread and wine together, we remember Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. In the act of taking Holy Communion together, we build on the unity between us who believe, and also between us and God. The Body of Christ gathers to partake in the simple meal of bread and wine. In the service we give thanks to God for His gifts to us. Taking Holy Communion with the Body of Christ also allows us to anticipate the banquet Christ has prepared for us in His kingdom.

I have always classified my religion as Presbyterian. When people ask what denomination I am, I reply, “very Presbyterian”. But I have to often remind myself and entrust that I am first and foremost a Christian, a member of the church of Jesus Christ. The Lord has been so good to me and blessed me with so many wonderful things such as a supportive family, amazing friends, loving congregations and faith communities, most of all, God has blessed me with a life full of faith and hope.

Growing up, I understood myself to somewhat be the religious backbone of my family. I truly loved going to church. I loved Sunday School, I loved Youth Group, I loved Wednesday morning bible studies, I loved anything and everything that involved being at church or with church people. I would be the first to suggest to my mom, dad and brother to get dressed for church as we gathered around the breakfast table for Sunday morning pancakes and hot chocolate. At a young grade school age, my parents thought it to be appropriate that they raise my brother and me in a church setting. Before this, church, was not a regular part of my parent’s adult life. My dad grew up Methodist and my mom Episcopalian but shortly after they left home, they stopped going to church regularly. I was baptized as infant in a Methodist church, because that’s what they were supposed to do. But I did not see the four walls of a church again until I was 8 and by the grace of God, my family settled into a PCUSA Church. On purpose or by fate, I am so thankful for that. I immediately fell in love with Jesus and the church. I enjoyed spending time there. As long as I can remember I was involved in youth ministry, whether it was as a youth myself, in college or post-college. I always feel like my call to ministry began when I was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I was the youth elder at my church, a member of the church youth council, the Trinity Presbytery Youth Council, and attended Montreat Youth Conferences in high school. In college I served as a chaplain’s office intern, chaplain for my sorority, volunteer youth advisor at Thornwell Home, and a clubs counselor at Montreat Conference Center where I spent three unforgettable and life changing summers. Post college, I had the joy of serving two different churches as a youth director. These life events changed my faith and ability to claim my faith as my own and made me realize my gifts and passion for ministry and all of God’s people.

When I went to college, I had the opportunity to explore who I was individually and faithfully. At Presbyterian College, I spent my days in the classroom studying Christian Education and Religion, and loved every minute of it. During my time in college, my faith evolved and I fell even more in love with the church. I knew that God had put this call upon my life and heart for ministry. I spent my college summers as a Sr. High Counselor at Montreat Conference Center. As important as Montreat was in my faith development, it is not as important as life post-college. Just know, that without that place, I would not be the person I am today. It is the place I like to call home, because it is a place where I learned to faithfully be myself. The growth, challenges, and experiences that have occurred in the six years I served as a youth director in a church and the four years of seminary are the years that truly created in me my deep passion for my ministry and where that passion will take me.

Right out of college I served at the Director of Education, Children and Youth to a small, somewhat dying, church. This church had become a commuter church. The demographics of this church had vastly changed in the past two decades. From a church to what used to be a vibrant and large congregation slowly but surely dwindled down to a small and fading population. These families had grown up in this church and there were many generations sitting in the pews together on any given Sunday morning. Aside from those token families and their close friends, others had left the church or simply passed away. They had so much heart and never gave up on their beloved



church. The relationships I created there will forever stay in my heart. The small, but mighty youth group and kids in the children's program I spent most of my time with, touched my soul in so many ways. A few of the older parishioners became my adopted grandparents. Although the head of staff and I did not get along at times, it was a beautiful experience. I considered myself lucky to have graduated college and promptly finding a job using my degree. Towards the end of my time at that church, I struggled with my call to stay there. At a time when I needed it most, a church across town approached me about applying for their interim youth director position. After some time of discernment, I started my ministry at Lake Murray Presbyterian Church in February of 2012. Lake Murray Presbyterian is a strong and growing church. That church saved me in many ways. LMPC is full of caring and loving people that supported me in my ideas and my ministry. These people have continued to challenge me and help me grow and flourish, even 1100 miles away. During the last year I was there, I began to do a few pastoral tasks outside of youth responsibilities, such as writing and leading liturgy, pastoral visits, preaching, and anything else that came up that Dr. Sloan saw as an opportunity for me to learn.

As I began my yearlong discernment process of going to seminary, I started thinking of how I spent most of my whole life thus far in the same town. I felt like I never gave myself enough independence. I never trusted in myself enough to have a life of my own away from my family, and my parents never really encouraged me to do so. I really felt called to get out of the Carolinas, out of the Southeast. I was terrified but excited to start this next chapter in my life at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary away from everything and everyone I had ever known.

Throughout the years, I discovered that the most beloved part of my ministry continues to be the relationships I create, relationships that comfort me and challenge me. Even those relationships that have been difficult for me, they tested and strengthened my ministry and passions. God has certainly put this call on my heart of ministry. I find great joy in congregational work, but I believe God is calling me to something more, something different. God is calling me in deeper and further ways to love and minister to others. What does that look like? Right now, it looks like serving in the Admissions Department at Austin Seminary where I can walk with people in what can be one of the biggest decisions they will ever make.

As I reflect back on my four years of seminary, I recognize it has been the most difficult, emotional, challenging, informative, influential, beautiful, life-giving years of my life. I learned a lot, doubted a lot, cried a lot, and loved a lot. My theology has evolved, my ministry has grown, and I have become a stronger person. I acknowledge I am a flawed human being, but God is still working fiercely in my life. I continue to trust in God and trust in my call. Some of the best advice I got before going to seminary was to never lose my childlike faith; to never forget the wonder and awe of what Christ did for us. It is a synergy of trust, hope, and sincerity that knows the Lord loves us and will lead us. I take comfort that my faith will not lead me astray and always trust where God takes me.

My faith is like the understanding of biblical languages, the more I study, the more I know and comprehend. The farther I travel in this journey of faith, the more I learn and the more I understand and grow. But like my knowledges of biblical languages, there are still so many aspects of faith I cannot fathom and begin to understand. My faith is always growing and always evolving. I do not know everything, and never will, but with God's help, I will continue to strive to know God more faithfully throughout my ministry.

I trust that in life, in death, and life beyond death we belong to God. Through the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, I believe in the one triune God, whom alone I worship and serve.

I believe in God the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. In sovereign love, God created the world as good. God created all in God's image of every race and orientation to live as one in community with one another. Yet we turn away from God in thought, word, and deed. We do not always love God with all our heart, mind and soul, and we do not always love our neighbor as ourselves. But the proof of God's amazing love is that God acts with justice and mercy to redeem God's beloved creation.

As we are all sinners, I believe God sent Jesus Christ to be the hope for humanity, to walk the earth proclaiming God's word as a human example of a faithful servant. Jesus Christ is Word made flesh, fully human and fully divine. God humanized Godself as Jesus to suffer a human death and gave His life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead to deliver us from a life of shame and into eternal life. It is through Jesus that I am saved and forgiven.

The Holy Spirit is eternal, infinite, everlasting, all-knowing, and ever-present. In a broken and fearful world God offers us hope. The Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all nations to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of those long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.<sup>1</sup> The Holy Spirit unites all people in Christ through the Church for the world.

I believe God sent Jesus as head of the Church. God gave Jesus and humanity all that was needed to live out God's mission through the church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the church is to proclaim and hear the Word of God, faithfully administer and receive the Sacraments, and nurture a covenant community of disciples of Christ.<sup>2</sup> The church is called to be the unified body of Christ.

I trust in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist. In these sacraments the ordinary things of life—water, bread, wine—point beyond themselves to God and God's love. In the sacraments we are bound in a covenant to our Creator God. Through Jesus Christ we are unified with the communion of all believers. The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord,<sup>3</sup> and we share this meal as a sign of community. Through the Holy Spirit, it is spiritual nourishment.

I trust in the Holy Scriptures and believe they are inspired by God. Written from human experience, yet the scriptures are a witness to God's self-revelation. God speaks through the Holy Scriptures, and the scriptures spoke to us yesterday, speaks to us today, and will continue to speak to us tomorrow through the Word of God.

We are saved by grace, through faith, not by anything we can do, earn, or accomplish. Only by the grace, mercy, and goodness of God are we made whole. As humans, we are not the gatekeepers of God's grace. It is not about us; it is about grace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Jesus Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, as we wait for God's new heaven and new earth.

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<sup>1</sup> *Book of Confessions: The Constitution of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Part I*, (Louisville, KY: The Office of the General Assembly, 2015), 11.4, lines 65-71.

<sup>2</sup> *Book of Order: The Constitution of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Part II*, (Louisville, KY: The Office of the General Assembly, 2015), F-1.0303.

<sup>3</sup> *Book of Order*, W- 2.4001.

Susan Montoya

Hospice Chaplain, Kerrville

### **Journey of Faith**

I grew up in England, where our family life centered around St. Mary the Virgin, the local Church of England. I was educated as a physical therapist in England and continued to practice when I emigrated to the United States. I had a long and satisfying career in physical therapy in Las Vegas, Nevada. My journey of faith led me to First Presbyterian Church there, where I participated actively in the community life of the church and was ordained a Deacon. In 2000 I heard God's call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. I attended Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2005.

Leaving the security of my home and all that it represented, travelling to the East coast and negotiating the rigors of Princeton as a second career seminarian, was an experience that stretched me beyond anything that I had previously experienced in my life. I lived God's grace intimately on a daily basis to meet the many and varied challenges. Without exception, every time I was tempted to give up, God brought someone into my path to help me take the next step forward and to stay on course. I passed my ordination exams whilst at Princeton, and my Final Assessment with the Presbytery of Nevada in the Spring of 2005.

From Summer 2005 to Summer 2006 I completed a one-year residency in Clinical Pastoral Education at Harborview and the University of Washington Medical Centers in Seattle, Washington, with a particular focus on Palliative Care. I have a total of four units of CPE.

I then returned to my home in Las Vegas, Nevada to explore opportunities for a call. I returned to my profession of physical therapy to support myself. At this time I also transferred my church membership to Green Valley Presbyterian Church in Henderson, NV, the area in which I was now living.

Time passed and I did not receive a call. I participated in the life of my local church and took every opportunity to provide pulpit supply to various churches in the area. In 2012 I moved to Boulder, Colorado to be close to my son and his growing family. In Colorado my faith community was the United Church of Broomfield, a small, open and affirming congregation into which I had been invited by a former patient. I frequently helped to lead worship there, preached occasionally, and participated fully in its community life.

In the Summer of 2017 my son took a faculty position with Schreiner University and I moved with my family to Kerrville, TX. I became part of the life of First Presbyterian Church here. Discerning God's purpose for me, graced by the help of new friends and my Spiritual Director, I have heard the call of the Holy Spirit to complete my journey to ordination.

In December 2018 I began work as a chaplain with Peterson Hospice in Kerrville. I am passionate about the role of Spiritual Care at the end of life. I believe that God has called me to this time and place and that all my education and life experience is being used in this vital ministry.

Susan Montoya

### Statement of Faith

**I believe...**in the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. As Creator, God made all that is, out of nothing, for before God nothing existed. Out of love, God the Redeemer in Jesus Christ suffered for humanity, so that we might know the extent of God's grace and forgiveness. God the Holy Spirit sustains humanity eternally, so that we might know God, and love as God loves us.

**I believe...**in the sovereignty of God over all of life, and affirm the majesty, holiness and providence of God who rules in righteousness and love.

**I believe...**that humanity was created in the image of God, but that very humanity often leads us away from God. Only through the grace of God, given to us freely in Jesus Christ, are we justified and saved, and not by any effort or worthiness on our part. As we embrace this freely given gift of grace, by faith, the Holy Spirit enables us to live a life of humble obedience and thankfulness to God's sovereign will.

**I believe...**in God's covenantal love, demonstrated since Creation, but manifest in the life, death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. In Christ we die to our old selves, are washed of our sin, and are raised to new life, continually, sealed to God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**I believe...**that God is revealed to us through the living Word, Jesus Christ, God incarnate, as attested by the Word written in Scripture. I believe in the centrality of Scripture, the foundation of all that believers think and do. As Scripture is the word proclaimed, I believe that the Sacraments are the word enacted. I understand Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be the true sacraments, as instituted by God and commended by Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, believers are sealed and renewed into Christ, and marked for Christ's service out into the world. I believe that the Holy Spirit moves our hearts and minds into an intimate knowledge of God, seals us into an intimate relationship **with** God, and guides us into a life lived only **for** God.

**I believe...**that as we come to know God intimately, we are guided into a life lived in and for community. Our triune God is a God of community, who wishes to know us as we know God, and requires that we live out that love freely towards others. Our lives can be a living testament of our love for God, just as Jesus Christ is the testament of God's love towards us. God calls each of us to use our unique gifts in ministry towards others.

**I believe...**that as God in Christ suffered on the cross for us, demonstrating unfathomable love, so God is with us in times of suffering and trial. In this love we are called to be present to others who suffer, taking care of the widows and orphans, as attested by Scripture in the life of Jesus Christ, our model for the Christian life.

**I believe...**that the Church is the body of believers who bear witness to the good news given to us in Jesus Christ, spreading the news of God's grace that frees us **from** sin, frees us **to** love...and to live joyously **for** God and for one another.

Journey of Faith—Dhawn B. Martin - Director of Sol Center, San Antonio

My faith journey begins with my grandmother. She took me to church, nurtured my faith, and taught me that asking questions and developing curiosity about God's work in the world are life-long endeavors. She also showed me that, on occasion, such endeavors inevitably spark an adventure or two.

The path that led me to seminary was one such adventure. Majoring in American Government in college and, while studying in England, earning an M.A. in the economic integration of Europe, I fully believed that a law degree and political career were my future. My first year in law school, however, revealed that this profession was not the one best suited to me. It was a difficult realization, but one for which I am grateful.

Across the next year, I worked with my home church and local non-profits in the Helotes, TX. area to develop an after school program for youth at risk. Repeatedly during this time, my pastors suggested the possibility of seminary education as a way to more fully explore not only my faith, but also God's call upon my life. I can readily confess that, at first, I shelved these nudgings—thinking myself a tad too cool for such a thing. The vanities of youth! Nevertheless, as time pressed on, I found myself drawn to seminary and to inquiring into the dynamics of a life in ministry.

My seminary years were marked by discovery and wonder. The community was one of unparalleled support—one in which it was understood that together we were both developing our theological acumen and learning how to be the Body of Christ in a world starved for deeper connection. My friendships made there continue to enrich my knowledge of self, community, and God. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is also the place where the inimitable Dr. Cindy Rigby encouraged my love of theology as an expression both of faith and of the life of the mind. Thanks in no small part to Cindy's mentorship, I entered a Ph.D. program in Theological and Philosophical Studies (completed in 2013).

The transition from M.Div. to Ph.D., from Austin, TX to Madison, NJ was one shaped by processes of grief and transformation. Two years before I entered the doctoral program, my grandmother passed away after a debilitating illness. Adrift—this describes my sense of being-in-the-world immediately after the loss of her steadying hand.

If my faith journey began with my grandmother, part of it died with her—or in Paul's language, my "infan[cy] in Christ" started to perish (1 Cor. 3:1). My life to that point had known little challenge, the rare disappointment, no depravation. Tempered not by fiery trials but by protected privilege, my faith was far from costly. As I surrendered my grief and spiritual disorientation to God, my prayers began to echo that of St. Ignatius—"on each of my dyings [God] shed your light and love."<sup>1</sup>

The spiritual realities of death and resurrection, of God's faithfulness in the midst of human vulnerability, took deep root within me during my Ph.D. program. And though at first it was but a stuttered whisper, my voice strengthened, as did my faith, to confess that God does indeed make "everything beautiful in its time" (Eccles. 3:11). I continue to work out my faith, in "fear and trembling," as how best my gifts might serve the people of God (Phil. 2:12).

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<sup>1</sup> David L. Fleming, SJ., *What is Ignatian Spirituality?* (Chicago: Loyola Press: A Jesuit Ministry, 2008), 81.

*Dhawn Martin*

*Credo...*

I trust in the goodness of God.

I have faith in things both hoped for and promised—but as yet unseen.

I cleave to the rock of my salvation, finding sanctuary in Divine redemption.

I believe because God first stirred my heart to believe.

And in believing I proclaim the wonders of God's grace by the life-transforming Word—written, revealed, and proclaimed.

I believe in the Triune God who grants peace that surpasses understanding.

Like a Mother—whose care strengthens fledgling life—so God cares for the world.

I believe in the One God, Creator of all that was, is, and shall come to be.

I believe that neither death nor life shall separate creation from the Divine Love that spoke, and universes burst forth.

All creation sings to the glory of God. And yet in our finitude, we humans permit self-interest to silence the voice of nature, to disrupt the possibilities of human flourishing, and to thwart the growth of love.

Such depravities, however, govern but for a time, while God's righteousness reigns eternal. It is this righteousness that calls humans to love and serve one another.

God creates, provides, and creates life anew.

I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God, Brother to humankind, Redeemer of all that is.

Fully human, Jesus ate with the despised, celebrated with friends, wept with the beloved, and healed the sick; fully Divine, Jesus considered equality with God something not to be protected but to be emptied for all. And so he ate, rejoiced, wept, suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried.

I believe the cross orients human life but serves not as its final end.

I believe in the resurrection, in life eternal.

Christ lives and we live through him. Great is the mystery of faith to which we are called.

Our lives, as exemplified in Jesus the Christ, are to glorify and enjoy God, to work toward justice, to partake in foretastes of the great feast prepared for God's children before that very first day when all creation was seen as good—very good.

It is in and through Communion that we anticipate this feast, a feast celebrating the Word through whom all that is has its being.

I believe in one baptism for the remission of sins and restoration of hope.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Sustainer and Comforter—who intercedes on our behalf.

I believe in that enigmatic Fire that leads the faithful into lands unknown, possibilities untried, and ministries as of yet unimagined.

I believe that the Spirit who hovered over the face of the deep still stirs the waters of baptism, such that we—the priesthood of all believers—are joined into one body, with Christ as its head and God as its heart.

I believe we journey not alone—but with the One by whose name we are called.

We journey by faith, not sight, in community, not desolation. We journey as those commissioned to liberate creation from the shackles of oppression and hatred.

In our comings and goings we are enveloped by grace and restored to fellowship with creation, one another, and with God. We are called to be God's people—here, now and in the Kingdom to come.

*Credo.*

## Journey of Faith

Seth Saathoff

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

I am not what you would call a cradle Presbyterian. For the first fourteen years of my life I was raised a Southern Baptist. Martin Luther's famous call to "remember your baptism" is easy for me; it was Sunday, October 3 2004. I was thirteen years old. I remember that my grandparents came to town for the baptism. I remember the pastor, who was a Houston Astros fan, joking with me before the service about praying for the Astros to win that day (they did in fact win and clinched a playoff berth in the process). I remember going to our favorite restaurant for lunch.

For all of the things that I can remember about my baptism, I cannot remember why we stopped attending the Baptist church. Perhaps we had grown disillusioned with the Baptists as a denomination, but I cannot recall with certainty. What I do remember is that, on a friend's invitation, we decided to visit the local Presbyterian church. When my mother first told me we were going to visit the Presbyterians I remember asking, "are they the ones that speak in tongues?" Upon visiting I learned this church was served by a clergy couple: Becky and Raymond Powell. This was the first time that I had ever seen a woman pastor. Not long after we joined the church we received a new pastor: Kate Rascoe. I remember being so entranced with how Kate led worship, with how she preached from a notebook of doodles and drawings in lieu of a manuscript, with how she invoked the words of scripture and confessions in our liturgy, with how she led the prayer of confession from the baptismal font and how she poured water into the font. One Sunday I sat up in the front as Kate poured the water and I remember feeling the cool spray of the water splash on my arm.

After high school I went to a Methodist liberal arts college. Truth be told, the only reason I went to that school was to play for the football team. Looking back, I am certain that God used football as a convenient pretense to place me where I needed to be. I had no intention of going into the ministry, but I found myself drawn to the campus religious life. My professors, chaplains, and fellow student ministers all invited me in and welcomed me to explore and deepen my faith. While in college I belonged to the local Presbyterian church. It was much larger than my church back home, but it was the faith community that nurtured me during my college years. My pastor, Cliff Stewart, was the first person to encourage me to attend seminary. On the encouragement of Clayton Rascoe, I took a summer job as a camp counselor at Mo-Ranch. At Mo-Ranch I met Sydne and Travis Allen, a clergy couple right out of seminary. I remember spending so much time with them, asking them about seminary and theology, about their thoughts on the church and ministry. I remember, for the first time in my life, discerning God's call towards ministry. I do not remember having an epiphany when I realized I was called to ministry. For me, God's call was a still, small voice; a gentle whisper that grew louder and clearer the more attentive I was to it.

I returned to school in the fall and decided to pursue theological education. I believed that I was called, but I knew that I needed the theological tools and language necessary for vocational ministry to fully confirm my feelings. In seminary I stumbled into an internship with a small church without a pastor. I remember how daunted I was to take on this task alone, but I believed that this was the best place to test my call to see if it was authentic or if I was just whistling Dixie. Equipped with a theological education, the support of my friends and family, and practical field experience, I came away from seminary affirming that God has indeed called me to ministry.

I look back and remember all that God has done for me in my life thus far, and I can't help but look forward to what God is going to do next.

## Statement of Faith

Seth Saathoff

### **I believe in the Triune God.**

God, our sovereign creator (Genesis 1-2), who in God's supreme nature, revealed God's love to humanity through God's covenantal promise to Abraham (Genesis 17:1-2) and the rest of humanity to redeem and restore God's creation through the coming of God's kingdom (Luke 22:20).

God, the Son, is the instrument of God's redemptive plan to redeem the world through the inauguration of the kingdom of God (John 14:6; Luke 17:21). With the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the world recognizes the establishment of Jesus as Lord over all creation (Matthew 28:18). Jesus is our savior (Luke 2:11), teacher (Matthew 4:23) and the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

God, the Holy Spirit, our steadfast guide (John 16:13), is the revealer of God's Word (I Corinthians 2:10) and leads us to faith in Jesus Christ (John 16:13). Without the Holy Spirit, we are incapable of knowing and loving God (John 14:26). From the beginning the Holy Spirit has empowered and continues to empower believers to do the works of the kingdom of God (Romans 8:1-17).

### **I believe sin has entered the world.**

We have forsaken the freedom given to us by God and have sold ourselves to the bondage of sin (Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-10).

The powers of sin prevent us from loving God as we should. We cannot live in sin and be free to love God (John 8:34).

### **I believe God has begun to reconcile the world.**

Jesus Christ entered the world to free us from sin and offer us life. Through Jesus' precious blood we have been liberated from the bondage of sin (Romans 3:21-26).

In the resurrection, Christ defeated death (I Corinthians 15:55-57).

The resurrection empowers humanity to be called by Jesus Christ. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, and the powers of sin and death have no claim over us (II Corinthians 5:17).

Reconciliation occurs when humanity is united with Christ (II Corinthians 5:18). God's covenantal relationship with humanity reminds us that God will never forsake us (Psalm 27:10; Hebrews 13:5). In response, humanity is called to live out the gospel message and to be the witnesses of Christ, in both word and deed (Matthew 28:19-20).

The sacraments of baptism and communion are outward signs of an inward grace that designates Christians as followers of Christ (I Corinthians 10:16-17; Galatians 3:27).

One day, Jesus Christ will return and the kingdom of God will be fully realized (Matthew 25:31-34). Until then, Christians—by way of the Church—offer testimony concerning Christ and the coming of the kingdom of God (II Timothy 1:8).

### **I believe God's spoken and revealed Word.**

God has revealed Godself through the Holy Scriptures (Psalm 119:105). The Holy Scriptures are our authoritative texts and reveal to us the saving knowledge of God (II Timothy 3:14-15).

We seek God's instruction through the Holy Scriptures and we are guided by the Confessions and prayer.

In the spoken Word, God's Word is interpreted and shared (Colossians 3:16).

**I believe the basis of Christianity is the acknowledgement that we are not our own, but that we belong to Jesus Christ who is our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord (Romans 14:7-8).**



### **The Reverend Charlie Michele Hornes : Journey of Faith Statement**

I grew up in Brownsville, and I am a life-long Presbyterian, ordained at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi where my mother was confirmed as a youth. I was active in children's theatre at Camille Lightner Playhouse in Brownsville so I grew up with a love and passion for the theater and the church. We attended Faith Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Churches in Brownsville. In Junior High, my family moved to Lufkin, where I was active in youth at my home church, First Presbyterian. It was during this time that I first felt a call to ministry. I continued my love for theatre, however, and with the nurture and support of my family and church family, I received scholarships from the Acting Conservatory at Marymount Manhattan College in New York City where I earned my BFA degree. After undergraduate, I worked as a professional actress in NYC and Miami, earning my professional status in the Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity Association. I attended different PC (USA) churches in NYC, but maintained my membership at my Texas home church. I was in NYC on September 11, 2001 and watched the twin towers fall from the roof of my Brooklyn apartment. This was the moment that launched me on my spiritual journey towards ordination, rekindling my call to ministry. I recommitted myself to God and a life in the ministry, specifically a life within the PC (USA) after learning about all the other religions and Christian denominations before and during Seminary. The PC(USA) was the best fit for me, now, as an adult. The basic 5 points of Calvinism, especially irresistible grace spoke to me. The Reformed tradition spoke to me. The unearned gift of God's great love moved me. God plants and plucks up. The welcome and inclusion that is the Presbyterian faith brought me back home to my Reformed roots. I was accepted to Union Theological Seminary with the Universities of Columbia in New York City and received my M.Div. I worked as a Pastor Intern generalist in Montclair NJ, I received my CPE Internship working in Harlem, and I received my CPE Board Certification with Baptist Health Systems in San Antonio, TX, where I was assigned to all types of units. Then I moved on to become a staff chaplain in Corpus Christ while I finished ordination with my Presbytery under care (New Covenant) and was finally ordained in Mission Presbytery in 2012. Working in the hospital helped me to understand people of different faiths and denominations while worshipping at Oakhills and Parkway Presbyterian Churches kept me grounded in my own reformed theology. I have had many incredible Presbyterian Pastors as mentors along the way including The Reverends Jackie Hannan, Allen Mosiman and Kathryn Barlow-Williams plus seminary professors such as The Rev. Dr. Daisy L. Machado and Dr. Brigitte Kahl. I now have 6 years of Pastor experience, mainly transitional because my husband's work has kept us moving until now and I have learned so much about the church field which Seminary did not teach me. My years of training and experience in theatre are also a gift to me in ministry, especially as a way to engage people in corporate worship; and as a Presbyterian, worship is central to my faith. It is in worship that we are equipped by God and then sent out into the world to do God's work as God's hands and feet. As a working mom of small children, who has worked the gamut from Family Ministry to working with intergenerational congregants, I believe I provide something for everyone from infants and youth to older congregants facing the challenges of aging within the Presbyterian Church and Mission Presbytery. Having my children has changed my faith journey immensely. I want my children to grow up in a covenantal community. I have fallen into transitional ministry seemingly by accident, but now feel that it is a place among the gaps within the church that God is calling both my natural and acquired gifts so I sought out Interim Training. I look forward to serving Mission Presbytery in ministry, and am excited to see what God has in store on this next leg of my faith journey now that my husband's job has moved our family to San Antonio, TX. We plan to stay here for a very long time.

**The Reverend Charlie Michele Hornes : Statement of Faith**

I believe in the God of justice and compassion, mercy and love of all; a Triune God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. I believe this triune God is interested and interacts with, has concern and care for, the creatures of God's creation.

God the Creator made us to live in a covenant relationship with God and each other, embracing our diversity. God took up our flesh and walked among us as the Christ who was God's only begotten Son. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and protected the vulnerable. Christ put in place the guidelines to follow in order to live a whole, worthy life. Christ, an innocent, was rejected and cast aside by us, put through a living hell on earth, and was crucified dead, and buried.

I believe God the Creator overcame humanity's greatest capacity for evil when God raised the Christ from his grave. Christ now sits as Head of the Church. As God the Redeemer, Christ welcomes those and their children who are claimed by baptismal waters into a community of Christian nurture and reconciliation, are justified by grace through faith alone, and invites them all to His table, offering the bread of life and the cup of salvation in remembrance of His name.

I believe in God the Sustainer, the final of the Trinity who breathes deeply within us, nurturing us through Authoritative Scripture which gives us the account of the Christ story. Through prayer this Advocate guides us, comforts us and protects us as we journey in this life. God the Sustainer builds us up in the Body of Christ and nourishes us with daily spiritual food, which sustains and renews.

I believe this Triune God calls us through different natural and acquired gifts, inspires and engages us to work in a covenantal community where we are called to uphold justice and show compassion, mercy and love for each other – for the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the outcast in our midst.

We live in fractured, frightening times, in times where divisiveness, injustice and oppression still maintain a steadfast hold, where attitudes of privilege still win out, where unity and freedom are still a luxury – where civility and reconciliation in Christ are desperately needed.

Through God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Spirit, the Sustainer, I believe we can be a new creation, one of love and peace, mercy and justice for each and every one of God's creatures. I believe in a God who initiates within us the desire to be different and to make a difference. A God who plants and who plucks up.

Through love of neighbor and obedience to Christ, we may once again be healed and made whole.

Journey of Faith—Rachael Huntley  
Oaks Hills Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

As a child, I grew up sporadically attending church. We moved around a great deal, and finding a church home was never high on the priority list. However, my mother had a strong faith, so even without a church community, I grew up feeling very comfortable discussing spiritual matters, and learning to pray regularly. In middle school and high school, several of my friends were involved with the local Methodist church's youth group, so I became part of the youth group and my mother and I began regularly attending Sunday worship services. I'm sure they taught a great deal about the Bible, but I must admit I did not retain much of it; what I did retain was the feeling of being accepted and loved by a church community. In college, I became involved with student Bible study groups and regularly attended Wednesday evening services hosted by a local campus ministry. This is when I began delving in to what the Bible has to say, and digging deeper into what it means to be a follower of Christ. Those groups were more theologically conservative than I ended up becoming, but I am grateful for those years; they were a necessary first step on my path to becoming a Biblical scholar.

Shortly after college, I got married and we moved to California. My husband and I never joined a church, but we were intentional about regularly devoting time to scripture and prayer at home. After five years, we moved back to Texas and started our family. We were excited to join a church after so many years away. I didn't know much about denominational differences, but we chose a PC(USA) church because my husband had been raised Presbyterian and his parents have been active deacons and elders. When it came time to baptize our daughter, I realized that I had never been baptized. She and I were baptized together, and that day remains one of my most meaningful spiritual experiences. Another momentous spiritual experience happened about one year later: the day I decided to go to seminary. My husband and I were driving from Austin to Houston and we stopped for lunch. I was a stay at home mother, but had been contemplating my next steps. He asked, "Have you ever thought about seminary?" The minute the question left his lips I felt what I can only describe as a physical rush of "yes" through my body. I have never felt anything like it, before or since, and it greatly unnerved me. I told him what had just happened and then quickly changed the subject. We got back in the car and had been driving for a while when I said that I was ready to talk about it. I told him that going to seminary felt like a very serious decision, serious enough that I should have some sort of "sign" from God. He pointed out that what happened to me in the restaurant was probably a sign, and then he began to laugh softly. I asked him what was so funny and he pointed out the window and said, "that. That is what is funny." I looked where he was pointing and saw a sign that said, "God loves you. Praise him." My husband continued, "My practical, engineering wife wanted a sign. And God gave you a literal billboard sign."

Shortly after that memorable day, we moved to New York City and I began studying at New York Theological Seminary (NYTS). I chose NYTS because they are incredibly diverse (socioeconomically, racially, theologically) and because they teach the theologians that are traditionally taught, but also make a point to provide material and courses that center on less mainstream thinkers. While at NYTS, I was not planning on becoming an ordained minister; I thought I would continue on to get my doctorate and become a professor. However, my experience in supervised ministry changed my mind. I discovered how much I love working in a church, connecting with people in their daily lives, and all the good and bad that goes with being part of a church family.

After graduation, I became the pastor for youth & families at Rye Presbyterian Church in New York. I greatly enjoyed my time there, especially the bonds I formed with the youth, and with the women's discipleship group that I helped found. I may not have become a seminary professor, but I love the teaching aspect of being a pastor. I find great joy in studying Scripture, sharing what I've learned with congregants, and helping them find

ways to apply it. It is a privilege to get to share in people's lives; to celebrate their joys, be present in their sadness, and find ways for us all to better connect to God.

## Statement of Faith – Rachael Huntley

I believe in one God, the God of Abraham and Sarah who formed a covenant with the people of Israel, and then expanded that covenant through Jesus. Jesus was fully human and fully divine, born to the Virgin Mary. He was sent to proclaim the gospel, and to show us how to live. He created a NEW society. It was unlike any society in history:

- it was voluntary and required no birthright

- it was of mixed composition: Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, male and female

- it commanded a new paradigm for life: forgive your offenders, share your money, and serve others. Those who were the lowest were made the highest.

To follow the gospel is to live into this new, revolutionary life, and to do so as a means of honoring God. “The ethic of discipleship is not guided by the goals it seeks to reach, but by the Lord it seeks to reflect. It is no more interested in “success” or in “effectiveness” than He.”<sup>1</sup> Jesus was crucified and resurrected by God, a testament to God’s grace and our eternal salvation. We are not saved by our “works” but through the grace freely given by God. This grace triumphs over our propensity to sin. We sin throughout our lives, but our faith moves us to continually try to overcome our sinful nature. We humbly confess our sins, and then try to emulate Jesus’ actions in this world, knowing we will forever fall short, but knowing that our love for God means we must continually strive. We are given the power to continually strive by the Holy Spirit. I believe the Holy Spirit to be that indefinable essence that we feel to be at work inside us as we struggle with how to conduct our lives here on Earth. In John 1:33 (NRSV), “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit,” the Spirit seems to be grace itself—a conduit between Jesus and God. The Holy Spirit is what allows us to be in a receptive state to comprehend and accept the totality of all that God has offered in the sacrifice and salvation of Jesus. When we are in this receptive state, we are freed from the burdens of selfish concerns and better able to practice the teachings of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is, ultimately, the agent of liberation from that which draws us away from Christ, and the agent of unification to that which connects us to Christ; it flows freely between the boundaries of the divine and the human.

As a member of the Reformed tradition, I participate in two sacraments: baptism and the Lord’s Supper. They are signs of our covenant with God, and of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Baptism is a sign of God’s faithfulness and God’s grace and, as such, needs to only be performed once. In contrast to the singularity of baptism, we regularly participate in communion. We do this to honor Jesus’ sacrifice, to signify ourselves as part of the Christian community, to join in thanksgiving and fellowship, and to remember whose we are.

I believe God calls each one of us to spread the gospel message of hope and love. We are to study Scripture, pray without ceasing, and then act upon what we receive from our study and our prayer. I believe in the authority of Scripture and that it is one way that God has chosen to communicate with us and give us guidance on how to live. We are to care for all of God’s creation—organic and inorganic--and to work for justice. We are especially called to serve others unwaveringly, as Jesus did. To God be the glory. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> John Howard Yoder, *The Original Revolution*, Harold Press, 1972, 39.