

Mackie Statement of Faith

I believe in the love, power and saving grace of the Trinity – God, our creator, Christ our redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, our guide. I believe that God created the earth and all that we see in it. I believe that Christ, through extraordinary power and infinite love, went to the cross for the sake of humanity, and was resurrected from the dead for the redemption of our sins. As Christ promised, I believe God sent the Holy Spirit into the world after Jesus' ascension to be our Comforter and our Guide. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that I find courage to participate in God's mission here on earth – to make disciples for Christ and to be his hands and feet when called to do so.

I believe that the Holy Scriptures are truly God's inspired Word and describes his story of love and redemption for all people as made complete in the witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the covenantal fellowship I have with God the Creator, Jesus Christ the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit – and it is to them I wish to give my life and to honor them for the sake of the kingdom

As a child baptized in infancy, my parents surrounded me with a great cloud of witnesses who, as a community, nurtured and sustained me in the faith until I was able to better understand the mystery of this sacrament. Having confessed my faith in Christ and confirmed my own baptism I am a recognized member of the body of Christ and the communion of saints. Being immersed in the waters I have died to my sin and been buried with Christ, yet will arise again to a new day through his resurrection and God's grace. I believe in one baptism for all time and that it is the outward sign and seal upon all of our lives of God's love and promise for redemption.

Through the act of communion and gathering at the Lord's Table with fellow believers, I acknowledge Christ's sacrifice by partaking in the bread of heaven and the fruit of the vine. I believe the mystery of communion to be a foretaste of the banquet feast yet to come in the life here-after and that the Creator's table is open to all who have been baptized.

For me, my desire to serve Christ comes from the fact that I have an acute awareness that my life is not my own; that I sense an intrinsic need to honor the One to whom I owe my life; and that the One to whom I owe my life needs to be lifted up and exalted with every breath of my being. As I exist within this reality, I find it necessary to engage in personal and corporate prayer, worship and Bible study within a Christian community as a means to hold me accountable to living out my identity of being a beloved child of God as expressed to me through his Word, Jesus Christ.

I am grateful to be a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the ways in which it expresses its motto – "Reformed and always reforming". As a denomination and as a member of it, I believe we do well in recognizing our history of being change makers and our future of being a people who continue to recognize the need for change and reform as the day and age and culture calls forth the relevancy of Christ.

I believe Jesus has established his church as a place where his body can make witness his acts of grace, love and mercy to the world, through the administration of the sacraments and the preaching and teaching of the Word. In Jesus' kingdom all will be served, all will be healed, all will be fed, all will be comforted, all will be clothed, and all will be redeemed.

Additionally, I uphold the watchwords and phrases from the Reformed tradition as a way to guide me in my relationship with God as well as inform the way I do ministry with his people; by grace alone; by faith alone; by Scripture alone; in Christ alone.