

Tim's Faith Statement

I believe in God. I believe in God's creative and restorative plan for a fractured, faltering, and failing world. And I believe the church exists at the intersection of that sin, brokenness, and healing. We are God's hands and feet in the world. We are God's love made manifest. We are God's light shining into darkness. We are God's call for justice. I have hope because I believe in God. Despite God's pervasive actions in history to show God's self and be known, people in every time and age failed to know and live in communion with God.

I believe that we know God by who and what we witness in Jesus Christ. Through Christ's life, ministry, death, and resurrection, along with the whole scope of scripture, the character of God is revealed. Christ's ministry is continued in our ministry and the ministry of the church in the world. We are called to the margins of society, the tables of the rich and poor, across lines of race, gender, sexuality, and nationality, and every place in between, because Jesus came to and for all. In his life, Jesus Christ exemplified the moral life that we should follow. In his death and resurrection, he defeated sin and death and brought us into new and eternal life.

I believe that the Holy Spirit continues the work of God. The Holy Spirit educates and empowers. The Holy Spirit guides and cares. The Holy Spirit renews our heart and soothes our mind. I believe the Holy Spirit picks us up and sends us out into a world that desperately needs an active and loving God.

I believe that it is in the church, through the preaching of the Word and the celebration of the sacraments, that we particularly and joyfully encounter God in Jesus Christ. When the Word of God is preached, I believe Christ is present with us. In baptism, I believe we are united with the rest of the body of Christ and recognize that God's loving grace claims us even before we are able to respond to it. In the Lord's Supper, I believe that through the eating and drinking of the bread and the wine that we remember Christ and that we are lifted up by the power of the Holy Spirit to eat and drink in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. I believe the bible is God's gift to the church. I believe that the Bible reveals to us who God is and shows God's unrelenting desire to be in fellowship with humanity. The bible shows us that the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament, as well. I believe that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the same God of the Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul. I believe that the God that sent out chosen individuals to be leaders, judges, kings, and prophets is the God that calls the apostles and disciples of the New Testament and us today. And I believe that we can and do encounter God beyond the church, often where Jesus Christ and the church are most needed.