

## Statement of Faith KJ Norris, 2014

1 I believe in One God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Scripture often speaks of the actions  
2 of each “person” of the Trinity separately and so we also speak this way,<sup>i</sup> yet they are One; this is a  
3 great and beautiful mystery. Although God can reveal God's self through nature and other means,<sup>ii</sup> the  
4 primary way God reveals is through the Holy Scriptures.<sup>iii</sup> In the hearing of the Old Testament, we  
5 encounter God as the One who created all things both visible and invisible,<sup>iv</sup> who is a covenantal God,<sup>v</sup>  
6 who calls people by name,<sup>vi</sup> and who teaches people to delight in God's way.<sup>vii</sup> The Scriptures promise  
7 that one will come who will reveal the glory of the Lord<sup>viii</sup> and who will establish a new covenant.<sup>ix</sup>

8 This promise has been fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. God was willing to humble God's  
9 self<sup>x</sup> and come to earth to be revealed in a new and full way.<sup>xi</sup> While remaining fully God, in the  
10 incarnation the Word took on flesh,<sup>xii</sup> and became fully human.<sup>xiii</sup> The Lord Jesus Christ brought  
11 healing, wholeness and freedom to countless individuals, preached the Good News of the Kingdom of  
12 God<sup>xiv</sup> and lived a sinless life.<sup>xv</sup> Though unjustly condemned,<sup>xvi</sup> Jesus Christ willingly laid down his  
13 life<sup>xvii</sup> and subjected himself to death on a cross.<sup>xviii</sup> For our sake Jesus took on sin, though he knew no  
14 sin.<sup>xix</sup> Humankind was created good by God and in the image of God,<sup>xx</sup> but humanity chose pride and  
15 disobedience and became subject to sin and death.<sup>xxi</sup> In Jesus' death on the cross, he took upon himself  
16 the judgment under which all people stand convicted<sup>xxii</sup> and became the final sacrifice for our sins.<sup>xxiii</sup>  
17 Jesus died and was buried. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. In his resurrection, death itself  
18 was conquered.<sup>xxiv</sup> And after appearing to many, Jesus ascended into heaven and sovereignly reigns  
19 over all things with the Father and the Holy Spirit.<sup>xxv</sup> We stand in hope that the Lord Jesus Christ will  
20 come again to judge the living and the dead<sup>xxvi</sup> and to create a new heaven and earth wherein there will  
21 no longer be sin, suffering, and death.<sup>xxvii</sup> Until that time, we are called to pray for God's Kingdom to  
22 come on earth,<sup>xxviii</sup> to recognize that the Holy Spirit is at work now reconciling the world to God,<sup>xxix</sup>  
23 and to share God's message of reconciliation with the world in both word and deed.<sup>xxx</sup>

24 In the power of God the Holy Spirit, I stand in thankfulness that God has called me into His  
25 family through the reconciling work of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit testifies to the work of Christ  
26 through the Church in the giving of the Sacraments. Baptism and Holy Communion are signs and seals  
27 of the promises of God upon our lives.<sup>xxxvi</sup> In baptism, God makes known his claim upon us and his  
28 pledge to cleanse us from all sin.<sup>xxxii</sup> Children should be baptized into the family of God because just as  
29 God marked the children of Israel into his family through the sign of circumcision, so God teaches  
30 children of believers that they are a part of the covenant community through baptism.<sup>xxxiii</sup> I stand under  
31 the Reformed Tradition, believing that this call into the family of God has nothing to do with my own  
32 righteousness or choice, but that I am saved solely by the love of Jesus Christ to whom the Holy Spirit  
33 testifies; no one can earn God's mercy and no one can testify that Jesus is Lord unless the Holy Spirit  
34 reveals this truth to them.<sup>xxxiv</sup> In Holy Communion, we not only remember that Christ died for our  
35 salvation, but we are also bound to Christ in faith.<sup>xxxv</sup> Though the bread and juice do not physically  
36 change their chemical nature,<sup>xxxvi</sup> we believe that in a very real spiritual sense, they are the body and  
37 blood of Christ<sup>xxxvii</sup> and through participation in the Sacraments, the Holy Spirit binds us to Jesus  
38 Christ. The Holy Spirit also convicts us of our sin that we might repent and respond to God with  
39 obedience.<sup>xxxviii</sup> Being claimed by God, we have new life in Jesus Christ, and although we continue to  
40 sin, the Holy Spirit gives us grace to practice in holiness.<sup>xxxix</sup> The Holy Spirit is the giver of good gifts  
41 who enables those who have been called into the family of God to serve the Lord in ways that are  
42 beyond their human capacity.<sup>xl</sup> All of Christ's disciples are called to “go and make disciples of all  
43 nations, baptizing them...and teaching them,”<sup>xxli</sup> and we acknowledge that the marks of the True Church  
44 are right preaching of the Word and administration of the Sacraments.<sup>xxlii</sup> We stand in hopefulness for  
45 the day in which “at the name of Jesus every knee should bend...and every tongue confess that Jesus  
46 Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”<sup>xxliii</sup>

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i	Heidelberg Catechism, 4.025
ii	Rom 1:19-20
iii	Second Helvetic Confession, 5.007
iv	Gen 1-2; Job 38, Ps 104
v	Gen 12:1-3; Ex 3:13-15; 2 Sam 7:18-29
vi	Lev 19:2
vii	Ps 119
viii	Isa 40:3-5
ix	Jer 31:31-34
x	Phil 2:6-8
xi	Heb 1:1-3
xii	Jn 1:1-5, 14
xiii	Scots Confession, 3.06
xiv	Lk 4:42
xv	Heb 4:15
xvi	Brief Statement of Faith, 10.2
xvii	Jn 15:12-13
xviii	Phil 2:8
xix	2 Cor 5:21
xx	Gen 1:26-31; Heidelberg Catechism, 4.006
xxi	Gen 3, Second Helvetic, 5.036-8
xxii	Confession of 1967, 9.08
xxiii	Heb 10:12-18; Confession of 1967, 9.09
xxiv	1 Cor 15:20-21, 54-57
xxv	Westminster Confession, 6.024
xxvi	Nicene Creed, 1.2
xxvii	Isa 65: 17-25; Rev 21:1-4
xxviii	Mt 6:9-13
xxix	Col 1:20; Confession of 1967, 9.53-55
xxx	Confession of 1967, 9.31-9.33
xxxi	Scots Confession, 3.21
xxxii	Heidelberg Catechism, 4.073
xxxiii	Heidelberg Catechism, 4.074
xxxiv	1 Cor 12:3
xxxv	Scots Confession, 3.21
xxxvi	Westminster Confession, 6.166
xxxvii	Scots Confession, 3.21; Westminster Confession, 6.167
xxxviii	Confession of 1967, 9.21
xxxix	Rom 6:1-14; Westminster Confession, 6.075
xl	1 Cor 12:4-11
xli	Mt 28:19-20
xlii	Scots Confession, 3.18
xliii	Phil 2:10-11