

1 Through the scriptures as inspired by the Holy Spirit and interpreted by the
2 confessions of the Church, I have come to believe in the one true, divine, infinite, holy,
3 and sovereign God who exists before time as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
4 with one single mind and will. I believe that God created all things through an
5 abundance of love in order that all may desire and praise God in worship and in
6 gratitude. I believe that although God's holiness demands judgment, God's grace and
7 mercy provide hope for redemption, transformation, and reconciliation.

8 I believe that God created people in God's own image. This image, understood
9 as Trinitarian, is inherently an image of love and relationship. We are, therefore,
10 designed for love and relationship with God and with one another. However, sin draws
11 us away from God and damages communities. This sin results in the brokenness, pain,
12 oppression, and loneliness that we experience in our lives and in our world. I believe
13 that in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and we are restored to righteous relationship
14 with God. The Holy Spirit draws us to God and shapes our will in ways that reflect God's
15 grace and mercy in order to transform us and our relationships.

16 I believe that Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, became incarnate in order
17 to draw us into intimate relationship with God. Jesus became human in a particular
18 time and place where he announced the Kingdom of God. Although he was without sin,
19 he took on all of our sin on the cross. In his resurrection, he defeated sin and death,
20 making it possible for people to approach God by uniting us to Christ. In his ascension,
21 he inaugurated the Kingdom of God, becoming the first fruit of that kingdom. I believe
22 that Jesus has been given all authority on heaven and on earth and is the Head of the
23 Church. I eagerly await the fulfillment of his promise to return to lead the
24 eschatological consummation for which the world was created.

25 I believe that the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son to draw us close
26 to God. The Holy Spirit provides counsel to illuminate scripture and reveal the will of
27 God. In addition, the Holy Spirit provides assurance of God's love and the forgiveness of
28 sin. The Holy Spirit works in individuals and in groups to provide spiritual gifts and
29 insights for the building up of the Body of Christ to carry out Christ's mission in the
30 world.

31 I believe that Jesus Christ, as Head of the Church, calls, empowers, and equips
32 the Church to participate in Christ's mission in the times and places where we find
33 ourselves. As the church, we are called to worship God in community, live together in
34 unity, encourage each other in our faith, grow in our understanding of God and the
35 nature of the Kingdom of God so that we can recognize where it is breaking in and join
36 in that work. As the church builds relationships outside its walls, we put ourselves in a
37 position to learn where there are issues of justice and equality and to discern how we
38 might act in love and mercy in those situations. As the church seeks to embody the
39 Gospel in mission, we are blessed with relationships that reveal more about God's
40 nature in ways that often surprise and challenge us.

41 I believe that the sacraments of simple, mundane, earthly elements of water,
42 wine, and bread serve to seal our identity and provide spiritual nourishment, drawing us
43 closer to God and to each other. The waters of baptism seal our union with Christ and
44 provide assurance of the forgiveness of sins. In baptism, we are engrafted into the

45 family of God as beloved children who are part of the Body of Christ. As we receive the
46 bread and wine of communion, we remember together Christ's death, celebrate his
47 resurrection, and look forward to his return. The spiritual nourishment of communion
48 binds us together in community as the Body of Christ and strengthens us for doing
49 Christ's work both within and outside the walls of the church.

50 I believe that Christ inaugurated the Kingdom of God but that it has not yet been
51 fully consummated. When this eschatological goal of all creation is realized, it will be a
52 time when sin is no longer present or desired and all creation is redeemed, made new,
53 and in full righteous relationship with God.

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