

Emily Cooper  
Statement of Faith

1 I believe in the one and only God. God is composed of three persons: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. In  
2 the beginning God created the heavens and earth. Through God all things came into being including  
3 snow covered mountains, sandy beaches, luscious green forests and all other places. God created all  
4 living things, fragrant flowers, each little bug, animals large and small, and of course humanity. God  
5 entrusted humans to care for this amazing creation. I believe that God, in three persons, rules over  
6 everything and loves all. God is omnipresent.

7 I believe that every person can see God through the amazing world God created, however people can  
8 only know God by the Word. This Word is composed of both Holy Scriptures and the Word made flesh in  
9 Jesus. I believe that God created humanity in God's image. This is so that humanity can be in a loving  
10 relationship with God. I believe that the evils of social injustice, prejudice, hate, among other sins have  
11 drawn us away from God, yet God continues to honor God's covenant with us. This shows us that God's  
12 love is constant and unconditional.

13 I believe Jesus Christ, God's son, is fully God and fully human. I believe that God being God can make  
14 that math work even though as humans it does not make sense. I believe that Jesus was sent as a living  
15 sacrifice to dwell among us. Jesus experienced life as we do. Being fully human Jesus felt all the  
16 emotions we feel. There were moments when Jesus experienced great joy and moments when he  
17 suffered strong feelings of loss. All feelings in between the two emotions were also experienced by  
18 Jesus. Jesus gathered people and taught about God including God's love and God's reign. Jesus sought  
19 out those in the shadows of society. Jesus healed the sick, comforted those who were suffering, and  
20 challenged people to be faithful to God. Jesus was betrayed, suffered, and crucified. Jesus knew that  
21 even though he had never sinned he was going to suffer and die and accepted this fate on behalf of  
22 humanity. Jesus died so that we might know grace. I believe that Jesus modeled a life of devotion to God  
23 and God's law as the way to remain in right relationship with God and each other. Through his death  
24 and resurrection, Jesus Christ took the sins of the world upon himself, assuring us that God's grace is all  
25 that is needed for salvation. I believe that God raised Jesus from death to life so that we have hope in  
26 the life to come and be in relationship with God both on earth and in the life to come as death has been  
27 vanquished. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.

28 Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come after he was no longer with them. I believe the  
29 Holy Spirit is ever present. The Holy Spirit comforts people, brings God's people together, and guides us.  
30 I believe the Holy Spirit is the source of peace, compassion, love, and justice. The Holy Spirit enables us  
31 to continue God's work as God's faithful disciples through the process of sanctification. I believe we are  
32 called to use the blessings given to each of us by God to help others and not keep those blessings for  
33 ourselves. Through the Holy Spirit and Jesus's example we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the  
34 naked, comfort the suffering, and to work continually to free the oppressed. This can be done through  
35 acts of justice and mercy.

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37 I believe that God calls faithful people together from all ages, races, and places of this earth. We are all  
38 God's people and together we form the Church. As the Church we worship, pray, learn, fellowship, serve

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39 people both in our community and at large. I believe there are two sacraments baptism and the Lord's  
40 Supper. Jesus Christ told his disciples to go out into the world to "make disciples of all nations," to  
41 "baptize them" and to "teach them." (Matt. 28: 19-20). When we are baptized we enter into a new life  
42 with Christ. We are marked by God as God's own and part of God's everlasting covenant. On the night  
43 before Jesus died he instituted the sacrament of communion. Through the Lord's Supper we are fed  
44 physically and also spiritually, giving our flawed selves to God and putting our trust in God. Both Christ  
45 and the church triumphant are present during this sacrament. These sacraments serve as signs and seals  
46 of our faith.

47 I believe that God has given us scripture in the form of the Bible. This scripture is God's word for God's  
48 people. The Bible tells the story of God's people and God's saving work through Jesus. In scripture God  
49 shows that God's word is for imperfect people and that God uses imperfect people time and time again.  
50 I believe that scripture is used to understand and experience our faith. Scripture is an authoritative  
51 guide for the Church. God is a living God that still speaks to God's people.

52 Word Count: 850