

COM ATTACHMENT 5

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Denise Geiger

I believe in God, creator and sustainer of all. He has revealed himself as holy, powerful, gracious and just. God whom Jesus calls Abba, is also a father who invited us to turn to him and trust him for all our needs.

I believe in Jesus, God's only Son, conceived by the Spirit, born of a Virgin at God's appointed time. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity, is equal to God and himself fully God. It is a mystery, too deep to fully grasp by us, but Jesus was fully human and also fully God, and freely offered his life, bearing on the cross the consequence of our sin. Through Christ, in Him, we are able to be reconciled to God and live a life pleasing to God. We can, however, do nothing without Jesus, as He Himself testified. Jesus is both Savior and Lord.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who was sent to us by Jesus to be our Comforter, Empowerer, Guide and Teacher. I like the wording of the Brief Statement of 1962: "In faith, humans believe and receive God's promise of grace and mercy in Christ, are assured of acceptance in spite of sinfulness, and are able to respond to God in grateful love and loyalty." With Christ's help, this is my testimony, as well as my belief.

God has provided what we call Means of Grace to help us in our Christian walk. They are experienced in the Christian community, the Church of Christ. As we regularly gather to worship God, to hear Him speak to us through the preached word, the prayers and the Sacraments, we grow together in our faith.

In order to be grounded in Jesus, to be the branches of the Vine, to use Jesus' image, we also need, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to maintain disciplines of personal devotion, study and prayer, as well as reaching out to a suffering world. We have been given different gifts and our Christian life will therefore bear different fruit as God graciously leads us.

Sacraments are visible signs of Christ's presence with us and confirmation of His work of salvation, "a testimony of divine grace toward us, confirmed by an outward sign (Calvin). In the Sacrament of baptism, the visible sign of water is a symbol of cleansing and regeneration and of our participation in Christ's death. In our tradition, infants are baptized "into future repentance" (Calvin), offered up to God to be included now in the Covenant relationship the community of faith has with God. In the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we partake of Christ-Life (who is the Bread of Life). We remember His work of salvation and His Words and in our union with Him, we are made whole. These truths and the power of the Sacraments can only be made real to us by the Word and the presence of the Holy Spirit and our sincere prayers.

It is by His Word that God spoke everything into being and still speaks to us by the written word - the Bible. The scripture gives us encouragement and guidance for our daily lives. I believe that it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and God's word to us.

BIOSKETCH - Denise Geiger

I was born and raised in Switzerland, where I completed my undergraduate studies. When visiting the USA, I met and married Joseph Geiger, who was then a medical student. After my husband completed his education as a pediatrician, we moved to the Appalachian region of Kentucky, where Joe worked for the Miners' Hospitals. We applied and were accepted as missionaries by the Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church. After completing the training at Stony Point, we were sent to Ethiopia where we remained 5 years when Joe's position as Provincial Health Officer ended. In 1970, we moved to Ohio, where Joe joined a multi-specialty medical practice, and I began sometime soon to pursue the training for the ministry under the care of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. I was ordained in 1980 and called by the Lee Street Presbyterian Church of Marion as pastor, where I continued for over 17 years. While I was in that position, I also began schooling and professional licensing for counseling, first in the area of alcoholism and drug addiction counseling. When I retired from the ministry, I continued the work of counseling, specializing in children and family counseling at the local Hospital of Marion, until we moved to North Carolina in 2004.

We have three adult children who are raising a total of 9 beautiful children. Throughout my adult life, I have also maintained an art studio, since I was privileged as a young woman to receive art training. In my retirement, I have been able to be very active as an artist.