

## Deb Swets Statement of Faith

1           Our triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – has been revealed throughout history, as  
2 Scripture attests, and particularly through the person and work of Jesus Christ. In Scripture, as  
3 well as in Christ, we see that God is perfectly gracious and compassionate, and also completely  
4 just and holy. Out of God’s own goodness, beauty and order were built into the created universe,  
5 which is sustained by God through divine power and relentless love.

6           God created human beings to image divine goodness by living justly, by showing mercy  
7 and compassion, and by remaining faithful to God. He called as his own a covenant people to  
8 bring his good news to the nations. But we indulged our own desires and appetites and have  
9 become corrupted, so that unless we are restored through the work of Jesus Christ and by the  
10 power of the Holy Spirit, we embrace self-love, choosing apathy over love for neighbors and  
11 ignoring justice for the sake of our own convenience. However, God’s faithfulness is not  
12 diminished by our faithlessness.

13           Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word made flesh; the Son of God and the Human One. Jesus  
14 spent his life caring for the poor, the marginalized, the sick; he showed us a way of peace and  
15 love which led him even unto death. Through his ministry we see the goodness of God that we  
16 have obscured in ourselves. The saving work of Christ is ultimately a mystery. However,  
17 Scripture tells us that the death of Christ on the cross was something he suffered in our place.  
18 Having lived the life that we should have lived, he also died the death of a sinner, which was  
19 something that we deserved. Somehow, his life and death sufficed to bring us back to God.  
20 Risen from the dead and having ascended to heaven, Jesus sits at the right hand of God,  
21 interceding for us as we are being sanctified by the Spirit. As we work for the kingdom, we  
22 anticipate the new creation in which all things are redeemed and restored to God.

23           Until that time, Christ’s body – the Church – has been set apart to continue his ministry  
24 of justice, love, and reconciliation through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church is  
25 comprised of all those in the world past, present, and future who have been called by God to  
26 follow Jesus Christ and for whom faith will awaken. The Church is devoted to unity in its  
27 diversity and to the testimony of the apostles. Those things which signify the Church are: the  
28 proclamation of God’s Word; the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper; and church  
29 discipline.

30           The Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God given to the Church in order to reveal to  
31 us God’s nature especially as attested by God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ, the living Word.  
32 God gathers us into the community of faith around the revealed Word of God in order that the  
33 Spirit might breathe life into us as we are caught up in God’s story as our own. Sometimes this  
34 work of the Spirit hurts: the people of God are a long ways from being completely made new.

35           Along with preaching the Scriptures, we celebrate the sacraments. Baptism marks us as  
36 belonging to this God who has pursued us long before we were aware of it. Likewise, the Lord’s  
37 Supper is also a means of grace by which the Spirit confirms in us the promises of the gospel and  
38 strengthens our faith. We proclaim in them the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and we are  
39 set apart as God’s people, even as the Spirit is changing our hearts and teaching us to rely on  
40 God more and more.