

A Statement of Faith

- 1.1 I believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whom there is perfect communion. God is without need, without fault, without beginning or end. All creation receives its very existence from God's breath, and is sustained at every moment by the Father's continued faithfulness. Creation was good because God made it so, and every person was created in God's image, to "glorify God, and to enjoy him forever".¹
- 1.2 I believe that humankind has freely chosen to go against the will of God, and in doing so, has fractured the relationship between Creator and creation. This separation is called sin, and its consequences can be felt in every aspect of life and in the cold reality of death. But by God's grace, sin has not overtaken the image of God in us. And by God's unfailing love, all creation will one day find both redemption and restoration in the world to come.
- 1.3 I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Fully human, yet fully divine, Jesus was born into a body like any other, a Jewish child in the line of David. But during his life, Jesus performed many miracles, forgave sins, and raised the dead. He claimed to be the Messiah, the promised King of the people of Israel, and he claimed to be divine, to know the Father and to be one with the Father.² He is the unique one, who is fully man and fully God, and it's that very nature, with all its seeming contradictions, that allows him to be the savior of humankind.
- 1.4 Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell, and on the third day he rose again from the dead. In his birth, life, and death, Jesus took on the reality of our separation from God, the weight of all our sin, and the powers of hell and the grave. And in his resurrection, Jesus provides us a path to communion with God who forgives our sins and extends to us the promise of eternal life when we breathe our last.
- 1.5 After his resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven where he sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there, he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
- 1.6 I believe in the Holy Spirit, who is of the same substance as the Father and the Son, and who Christ sent to dwell within all God's people. The Spirit gives us the gift of faith, which allows Christ's work to be appropriated by us and applied to us. And the Spirit is our constant companion on this journey of discipleship; sanctifying us, uniting us with Christ, and uniting us with one another as his body, the church.
- 1.7 I believe in the Holy catholic church, the communion of saints, and the forgiveness of sins. Wherever the Word is preached, the Sacraments are given, and discipleship is practiced, there is the church. And the Sacraments are Baptism and Communion. These two are ordained by God, instituted by Christ, and received by the Spirit. And through them, we are washed of sin, welcomed into the family of God, connected with the work and person of Jesus, and nourished for the journey ahead. These gifts of God for the people of God are signs and seals of his promises, and through them we are united with the Word made flesh.
- 1.8 Finally, I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In the end, God will make his people clean, he will bind up all their wounds, and he will bring them home to the place that Jesus promised to prepare.³ Our hope is real. Our God is good. And his promises always hold true. This is the great reality of our stories, from the very beginning, all the way to the very end.

¹ Westminster Shorter Catechism.

² John 10:15, 10:30.

³ John 14:2-3.

Biography

My name is Alex Regets, and I was the third and youngest child of two loving parents until they became the guardians of an eight-month-old girl when I was still in high school. I grew up in the church. My family attended Sunday services semi-regularly, and both of my parents were quick to volunteer whenever service opportunities arose. I grew up with a good example of what it meant to live out the Christian faith in the everyday realities of life, and for that, I will always be grateful.

Still, when it came to matters of faith, I was always something of a skeptic. I'm not the type of person to leave things alone; I'm rarely satisfied with simple explanations. And so for me, coming to faith was in-part a journey of finding answers. Finding answers for the difficult questions. Finding answers for the apparent contradictions. And finding answers for my many doubts. Part of me always believed, but in order to really accept and embrace my faith, first I had to make sense of it. Only then could I allow myself to rest in its beauty. And so my story is one of seeking and finding. Finding answers, finding God, and finding a calling.

It wasn't until the end of high school that I really began to take hold of my faith, but in just a couple years I would transition from a pre-law track at a party school in Florida to seeking a degree in religious studies from Olivet Nazarene University. My freshman year of college I felt very strongly that I was being called to vocational ministry. It was mostly an internal call, I never had anyone steer me in this direction, and until I was ready to make this life-altering decision I refused to talk to anyone about what I was feeling. So I prayed until I was sure. And then I prayed that God would make it clear this wasn't all just in my head. And again, and again, God confirmed my calling in clear ways, ways that I truly needed and was lucky to receive.

At Olivet I would get married to my high-school sweetheart (something I always doubted really happens), and we would have our first daughter the day of my last undergraduate final. From there we went to Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, where I had in-residence classes for two years while working as the Youth Director at a mid-size RCA church in the area. The senior pastor there was a great mentor to me, and in just a couple years I learned a lot about being on staff in the church.

Then, in June of 2017, I started a Summer internship at First Presbyterian Church in Peotone, the town over from where I grew up. They didn't have a pastor at the time, so I was able to fill a vacancy and get some valuable experience, and by the time we got to the end of my internship they offered me the opportunity to stay in place while I finished up my schooling online. So for the last year I've been pastoring at First Presbyterian, and slowly moving toward my MDiv. In this time, I've also moved from seeking ordination in the RCA to seeking ordination through the PC(USA), and my wife and I had a second daughter just to keep things interesting.

I'm really lucky to be where I'm at, pastoring in a church where the people have been very gracious to me, and living in a town where I'm surrounded by family and friends. And I really am excited for whatever God has in store for the future. I hope to pastor a small church in a small town for a really long time. But wherever we end up, I know that the God who brought us this far will continue to provide.