

## Statement of Faith by Doug Melius 5-5-2017

### **God**

I believe in a loving God, the creator of all that is.

God is revealed in the glory of the created universe and in Scripture.

God manifested by becoming wholly human in Jesus the Christ, while remaining wholly divine. This, I believe, is the central event of human history, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. My salvation is through Christ.

God is manifested by the ever present Spirit who unites believers to Christ, God and each other. The mystery of the Trinity suggests that community is inherent in the very nature of God. I believe God loves humankind, and all of creation, as a perfect parent.

### **Humanity**

The first aim of humanity is to glorify and enjoy God forever.

The second is to love your neighbor as yourself.

I believe idolatry is the parent of all sins.

Idolatry is to put one's trust in anything other than God.

### **Bible**

I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Covenants provide the norm by which the relationship between God and humanity is to be understood.

Our personal and communal narratives resonate with the Biblical narratives of our ancestors in faith. I never preached a funeral without a theological focus of that particular life from a Scriptural perspective. We are all in the bible. Our stories may be muted or in a minor key, but each one is in there.

### **Church**

I believe God calls us into the Church. It is the Body of Christ united in: worship, prayer, and service. The Church is called to be the provisional demonstration of the Kingdom of God to the world.

Each believer needs the collective gifts of the Body. Likewise each of us brings to the Body of Christ gifts unique and necessary. The need for community is inherent in the very nature of humanity.

### **Sacraments**

I believe in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Table. Sacraments are signs and symbols that echo the various biblical accounts of God's saving acts. Sacraments evoke the mystery of faith and balance the (intellectual) preaching of the Word in formal worship.