

# Brittany Leigh Hesson

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and the mystery of the Trinity, as three in one. God created all things and continues to be present in creation. All people, regardless of race, sex, or nationality, were created in God's image for good. Knowing that we are all children of God, when we forget to love our neighbor or any part of God's creation, we sin against God. God knows no boundaries of time or space. As such, we can never run away or hide from God's grace and God alone can forgive us for our sins. God's son, Jesus, came to earth as an infant born to a young woman and a carpenter. He was claimed by God in his baptism and began his ministry, spreading love and compassion to those whom society deemed unworthy, challenging the thoughts and practices of his time, and teaching his disciples through stories and actions. At the end of his short life, Jesus was crucified, died, was buried, and ascended into heaven but he conquered death and rose again. Thus, Jesus, in his life and death, was both fully human and fully divine. Working in and through creation is the Holy Spirit, which breathes life into that which God has spoken into being. The Holy Spirit inspires, refreshes, and energizes us to do the work we are called to do in the name of Jesus Christ and the love of God: to love ourselves and our neighbors and to worship God above all else.

I believe in the church and in the fellowship of community found when believers join together to worship God and love and serve neighbor, following the example of the ministry of Jesus Christ and movement of the Holy Spirit. As believers in every time and place, we join in prayer, song, and learning as a way to remind us of who we are and whose we are, watching for moments in which we may glorify God in worship. The church turns to the teachings of Scripture to learn about Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, and faith. The Bible is meant to be used with care to guide us in our thoughts and actions as we strive to be examples of Christ's ministry in the world. It is the responsibility of the church to read the biblical texts through their historical, literary, and theological lenses to determine what these texts mean for us today. The sacraments of baptism and communion, which we read about in those biblical stories of Jesus, connect all believers to each other and to God, strengthening the power and claim of God's love in the world. Through the signs and seals of these sacraments, believers proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ and promise to spread the good news that we have learned with our communities. Named and claimed in the waters of baptism and fueled by the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation, we are called to go out into the world lead by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to share the love of God.