

Confessional Statement

Faith Presbyterian Church
Medford, New Jersey

In response to the grave spiritual condition of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and to the serious challenges to the Christian faith in American culture, the session of Faith Presbyterian Church declares its commitment to the historic Christian faith as expressed in *The Book of Confessions*.

In addition, in solidarity with other Presbyterian churches in the Confessing Church movement, the session identifies three doctrinal matters, which it wishes to emphasize and to commend to the denomination and to the nation.

1. Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the way of salvation.

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12 NRSV)

For we teach and believe that Jesus Christ our Lord is the unique and eternal Savior of the human race, and thus of the whole world, in whom by faith are saved all who before the law, under the law, and under the Gospel were saved, and however many will be saved at the end of the world... Now there only remains for all of us -to give all glory to Christ, believe in him, rest in him alone, despising and rejecting all other aids in life. For however many seek salvation in any other than in Christ alone, have fallen from the grace of God and have rendered Christ null and void for themselves (Gal. 5:4). (Second Helvetic Confession, chapter XI, "Of Jesus Christ, True God and Man, the Only Savior of the World")

2. Holy Scripture is the Triune God's revealed Word, the Church's only infallible rule of faith and life.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17 NRSV)

As we do not rashly condemn what good men, assembled together in general councils lawfully gathered, have set before us; so we do not receive uncritically whatever has been declared to men under the name of the general councils, for it is plain that, being human, some of them have manifestly erred, and that in matters of great weight and importance. So far then as the council confirms its decrees by the plain Word of God, so far do we reverence and embrace them. But if men, under the name of a council, pretend to forge for us new articles of faith, or to make decisions contrary to the Word of God, then we must utterly deny them as the doctrine of devils, drawing our souls from the voice of the one God to follow the doctrines and teachings of men. (Scots Confession, chapter XX, "General Councils, Their Power, Authority, and the Cause of Their Summoning")

3. God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life. This includes honoring the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, the only relationship within which sexual activity is appropriate.

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. (Rom. 6:12-13 NRSV)

They who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, do practice any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty; which is, that, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. (Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter XX, "Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience")

The session is convinced that the spiritual health, and even the viability, of the Presbyterian Church (USA) depend on the acceptance of these doctrines. It is also convinced that the church is called by God to "preserve the truth" and to "promote social righteousness" in the world. With this in mind, the session commits itself to promoting right belief and godly practice within this congregation, the entire Presbyterian Church (USA) and throughout the world.

The session makes this commitment in public solidarity with other churches in the Presbyterian Church (USA), which have identified themselves with the growing Confessing Church movement within our denomination, and hereby states that Faith Presbyterian Church is and shall be represented to be a "confessing church."

Adopted unanimously by the session 8/27/01