

Michael Geiler Personal Statement of Faith

1. I believe in the Holy God of Israel, revealed in Scripture,
2. the sovereign Creator and source of all that is.ⁱ
3. This eternal God exists in three equally divine persons:
4. God the Father, God the Son, who took on our flesh in the person of Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit,ⁱⁱ
5. who are together worshiped and glorified.
6. This compassionate God lovingly creates all of us equally in the divine image,ⁱⁱⁱ
7. that we might bring glory to our Creator,^{iv} caring for creation and for each other.
8. Though God created us for this good purpose, we have turned against God
9. by violating ourselves, each other and our world.^v
10. We ignore our neighbor. We squander earth's resources. We spurn God's plans for us.
11. We are broken, sinful people, prone to causing injustice.
12. Yet, this merciful God established a covenant with God's people through Abraham
13. refusing to let our willful brokenness be the last word.^{vi}
14. And so, God continues to write the story of redemptive work in the world,
15. with and through the people of God.
16. We are all part of this story, and I am part of this story.
17. It is this faithful God whom I worship and serve, and to whom I belong.

18. I believe in Jesus Christ, the true Son of God the Father,^{vii}
19. fully divine and fully human, the King of all creation^{viii} and Lord of the Church.
20. He is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament and the Savior of the world.^{ix}
21. Through death and resurrection, this priestly Jesus addressed the injustice of sin in the world, including that which is in our hearts.
22. He absorbed the cost for the sins of all the world as an act of obedience and love,
23. saving us when we could not save ourselves.^x
24. This salvation through Jesus is God's free gift of grace to us,^{xi} as we are invited to find ourselves in God's forgiveness.
25. As a prophet, Jesus proclaimed and taught the reign of God,^{xii}
26. remains present and active in our lives through the Holy Spirit,
27. and will come again to complete the establishment of God's kingdom forever.
28. My hope and trust are in Jesus.

29. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives and renews our lives,
30. binds us together as the Church, which is Christ's Body, bearing Him to the world.^{xiii}
31. The Holy Spirit empowers and calls us to good works and ministry,^{xiv}
32. as we participate in God's reconciling work and mission in the world:
33. caring for the poor, binding up the broken hearted and addressing abuses of power.^{xv}
34. Through baptism and the Lord's Table, the Word and Gospel are proclaimed to God's people of all ages,
35. even as the Holy Spirit seals us as belonging to the people of God,
36. and assures us of the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.^{xvi}
37. It is this advocating Holy Spirit who inspired and illuminates the Scriptures,
38. giving us a rule of faith for righteous living^{xvii}
39. and revealing God's plan for the world in Jesus.^{xviii}
40. My gifts and participation in God's kingdom come from the power of the Holy Spirit.

41. I am honored to live a life in worshipful response to God,
42. Giving God all praise, honor and glory forever^{xix}, in this life and the next. Amen!

Notes

- i Genesis 1:1, 14:19-22.
- ii *Second Helvetic Confession*, 5.015.
- iii Genesis 1:27.
- iv *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, 7.001.
- v *A Brief Statement*, 10.3.
- vi Genesis 12:2-3.
- vii *Apostle's Creed*, 2.2.
- viii *Second Helvetic Confession*, 5.062.
- ix Luke 2:11.
- x *Second Helvetic Confession*, 5.077.
- xi Ephesians 2:8.
- xii *A Brief Statement*, 10.2.
- xiii 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.
- xiv *A Brief Statement*, 10.4.
- xv Isaiah 61:1.
- xvi *Heidelberg Catechism*, 4.066.
- xvii *Westminster Confession of Faith*, 6.002.
- xviii *Confession of 1967*, 9.27.
- xix Revelation 5:13.