

## **Statement of Faith: Aaron D. Frank**

I believe in God, creator of all. I believe in the unity of the Trinity—God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. I believe in the sovereignty of God. In Creation God made woman and man in God's own image, endowing us with intelligence and free choice. Tempted by the dream of power, humans sinned.

I believe that sin separates us from God and necessitates Christ's atonement. I believe God has never wavered in love of humanity and Creation. God's patience has been tested by the independent spirit of humanity; God has chosen to have faith in us even when we did not have faith in God.

I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God, born of Mary. I believe that Christ is one with God throughout eternity. I believe that Jesus' teachings were founded on a gospel of humility and service. These teachings of peace and equality, and of God's sovereignty, threatened the establishment. Jesus' enemies sought to silence, with murder, the movement he began. I believe that in Jesus' resurrection he conquered death for all humanity and atoned for the sins of a fallen world. Through this grace, we believe in our own resurrection at the end of time and the establishment of God's eternal peace.

I believe in the continued fallibility of humanity despite Christ's sacrifice. I believe that the attempt to live godly lives was the foundation of the church built by Christ's Apostles, which we continue today. The church remains Christ's legacy in this world; from this 'church universal' we worship and glorify God, proclaim God's love and support those in need.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, God's indwelling presence. I believe in the panentheism of the Spirit—upon seeing a newborn child, standing before a vast mountain range, in the peace we encounter in contemplative prayer. The Spirit of God shelters us and gives us the strength of Samson. The Spirit is God's Providence.

I believe Scripture is sacred, given by God and passed down by many hands and languages. Scripture establishes the heritage of our faith and God's relationship to all of creation, in particular the Church. I believe in the legacy and the tradition of the Church. I believe that through God's grace the Church survives strife and stagnation throughout history, reformed and always reforming.

I believe we are blessed with two sacraments—Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In Baptism we are reminded of the importance of water throughout history—Creation, the Flood, the thirst of the Israelites, God's claiming of Jesus as he was baptized by John. We celebrate Baptism as the symbol of our membership in the family of Christ, and the grace of God poured out in Christ. In the Lord's Supper we are reconciled to God, comforted by Christ's everlasting presence and commit our lives to living in his image. We celebrate the Lord's Supper in unity with God and believers throughout the centuries and the world, sharing in the blessing of salvation that was wrought in Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.