

Statement of Faith for Michelle Ormsby Serra

God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. When God looked upon all that had been made, God saw that it was good. God's involvement with creation did not end there. God continues to be an active force in the world; through the earthly life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and through the action of the Holy Spirit.

Humans were created in the image of God, *imago Dei*. Each individual has inherent value. God loves all of humankind. God calls who God will. Through the power of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the action of the Holy Spirit, God empowers and enables us with particular skills, gifts, and abilities. Christian life is in part the discovery of those as well as continued interaction with God.

God calls individuals into relationship. Through faith, God welcomes us as a part of the Christian family. As a part of this larger community, we are joined together as a body of believers to support, nurture, and encourage one another. As a Church, we are called to continue the work of Jesus Christ here on earth. Through proclaiming the Good News and sharing with others, we demonstrate the mercy, kindness, goodness, and love of God. This is made possible through the action of the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures convey God's character and will for humankind. The Old and New Testament together contain foundational truths and guiding principles for life. Through study of scripture, we can discover more and more about the mystery of who God is and what it is that we are called to do.

Part of how we participate in relationship with God is through the sacraments. Baptism and Communion are outward expressions of faith and means of grace. In baptism we are claimed as God's own. Also, as a part of baptism, others are asked to nurture and teach us as we grow and mature. Communion provides an opportunity for us to join together and be nourished by the bread and the cup as we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our ongoing interaction strengthens and renews us as we live our lives of faith, striving to honor and glorify the triune God.