Statement of Faith - Rev. Jesse B. Larson

I believe in one triune God who is all-loving, and who is the source and sustainer of all life. God yearns to be in relationship with us, and God’s grace and faithfulness abound. In life and death, we belong to God.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who taught us the true way of living – with love for all – that would bring wholeness and reconciliation for all of creation. Christ’s sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate example of God’s love for us. Christ’s resurrection demonstrates that God is the God of rebirth and new beginnings. In Jesus the Christ, we will always find truth, forgiveness, grace, redemption, meaning, hope, and love.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the mystical presence of the divine in our lives. It renews us with revelations about the nature of God. As the Holy Spirit blows in us and among us, we are given exciting opportunities to become co-creators with God in bringing about a “new thing.” During the dark times of our lives, the Holy Spirit draws near when we long for the presence of God.

I believe in the goodness and relevance of the church universal, though we are broken and imperfect. The church seeks to discern the will of God, proclaim the good news, and put love into action. I believe that it is through relationships and outreach that faith is grown, rather than adherence to dogma.

The Bible is the story of humanity’s faith journey with God. It remains as relevant as ever, repeatedly allowing itself to speak and be interpreted in all times and circumstances. God’s word is a balm in Gilead and is fire to afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted. The Bible should be studied and interpreted hand in hand with prayer and discernment as to how God’s Spirit is speaking to us in the here and now.

I believe all human beings are made in the divine image of God. In Christ, all barriers are shattered. Christ calls for reconciliation and unity throughout the world. All believers are called to speak the truth in love for justice and against oppression, while also loving and nurturing the light which we all hold. In an era of great polarization, I refuse to accept simplified answers concerning the complexity and breadth of God and human condition. I am becoming more and more at ease with uncertainty. Rather than judge others and build walls, I strive to be a bridge - someone who builds up others and connects to others.

My faith tradition is that of Presbyterianism, where love, grace, and hope for all are my compass and my anchor. Our world, our faith, ourselves are reformed and constantly being reformed. Thanks be to God as I have many rough edges and so many questions; the notion that we and our world are all works in progress gives me hope for the future! Our complex world is wrought with sin and despair but also powerful hope and compassion; in the midst of it all, I proclaim our need for God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the power of love.