

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

By Olive Mahabir

I believe that God is majestic, and that God revealed God's self in the Trinity, Father (parent), Son and Holy Spirit. God is the sole creator of the world, and governs all events in creation by sustaining, nourishing, and caring. Our Creator God wills that humans possess and promote proper and balanced relations with creation.

I believe that Jesus Christ is both human and divine and through his incarnation became fully human, yet, was sinless. Through his divinity, Christ performed the works of God in his ministry through healings and miracles. Consequently, Jesus became fully human and dwelt among us, identifying with us in every way. Ultimately, Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross to reconcile us to God.

I believe that Scripture originates from God, and its authority stems from God. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are inspired by the Holy Spirit and is authoritative for Christian living and Christian faith. Humans cannot understand Scripture unless guided by the Holy Spirit. I believe that the Creeds and Confessions of the Reformed Tradition and the PC (USA), give full expression of the Christian Scriptures.

I believe the Church is the body of Christ in its corporate and individual life. Christ is the only head of the Church. I believe that the Church can be considered a "mother," since the church nurtures and cares for her members as a mother cares and nurtures her children. The Church is responsible for preaching the Word of God, and for administering the sacraments. The church is a community of faith called by God to be affirming and inclusive of all God's people regardless of race, nationality, gender, sexuality, and ideology.

I believe that the two sacraments of the Presbyterian Church (USA) help us shape the church as a beloved community. Baptism and Holy Communion are visible, holy signs and seals instituted by Christ. I believe Baptism is the sign of initiation into the church and unites us with the life and death of Christ. In the Lord's Supper, the elements of bread and wine function as holy symbols; means by which the believer is elevated to Christ's heavenly presence. The Lord's Supper serves as the way we remember what God has done for humankind in, and through Christ.