

Exhibit A-1

Jessica Means
Statement of Faith

I believe in God the creator of all and author of life. I believe God is so much more than my frail mind comprehends. I declare my faith with humility, knowing that I will miss the mark.

I believe God is eternally existent in the three-in-one Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that God's being is a community of love in which we are created, redeemed and sustained. In all things God is at work ordering the world until God's reign of love is fully realized.

I believe the Son of God lived among us as the historical person Jesus. He lived, died, resurrected and ascended for us and our salvation. In his physical death and bodily resurrection we are freed from sin and redeemed to new life.

I believe humans are created in God's image, but things have gone awry with sin, a pervasive reality in our world personally and systemically. God calls us out of sin by grace, God reaching to us and pulling us out. Any good we do is a response to that grace. Grace compelled Christ to the cross and includes us in the resurrected life of creation. In grace God moves and calls us, and in grace we respond with a joyful "Yes!" As we grow in grace, we are sustained by the work of the sanctifying Spirit as we learn to grow closer to the heart of God.

I believe the church is God's people, called and set apart as a foretaste of God's coming reign. We are counted as members of the church by God's grace, not our merit or action. The church is held in unity through God's Word and administration of grace in the sacraments. Christ is the Word, the head of the church, and Scripture is the revelation of such to us. That revelation is revealed through the inspiration and interpretation of the Spirit, and we best discern that inspiration in concert with the full church.

I believe the sacraments of baptism and communion are instruments of God's grace, physical acts reflecting spiritual realities. In baptism, God claims us in the covenant of grace. Particularly when we baptize infants and children, we witness God's call before we have the means to respond, acknowledging that we cannot outrun God's love. In communion, we commemorate and participate in Christ's death and resurrection. Through mysterious means, the Spirit infuses the elements of bread and cup with sustaining grace. In the sacraments, with the church universal we proclaim and commemorate God's gracious action in our lives.

I believe these are not abstract claims but realities that shape us in the world. Created in love and saved by grace, we strive, albeit imperfectly, to share that love and grace with all. We work for mercy, truth, and justice. We bear hope in dark and despairing places. We lay down our privilege to love our neighbor well. We pray fervently that God's will be done on earth as in heaven and listen attentively to God's call to join that

work. God has chosen to work through us, transforming our paltry offerings into beautiful gifts for the world. Thanks be to God.