

Statement of Faith
Mary Sellers Shaw

1 I believe in one triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that God is omnipotent,
2 omniscient, and omnipresent. I believe that God is the creator of the entire universe and of
3 everything in it. I believe that God formed humanity by hand and breathed the Holy Spirit into
4 human to give us life. I believe that God claimed God's creation as "good" and that God loves all
5 creation unconditionally.

6 I believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who came as the Word Incarnate to live among us.
7 I believe that Christ was fully human and fully divine. I believe in the mystery of the incarnation and
8 recognize that the nature of the incarnation, and of God, is beyond our human understanding. I
9 believe that Christ lived and did ministry on earth, that he experienced the range of human
10 emotions, and that he died on the cross for our salvation. I believe that Christ was resurrected from
11 the dead and overcame the sins and evils of the world. I believe that Christ's ministry lives on
12 through the church and the work of the Holy Spirit.

13 I believe in the Holy Spirit as the living Word. I believe the Holy Spirit was breathed into the
14 first human at creation and that the Spirit continues to move through the world today, connecting
15 us with God and guiding us as we discern God's call on our lives. I believe the Holy Spirit is present
16 in the very air we breathe and that the Spirit works through both the written and spoken Word, as
17 well as through the unwritten and unspoken presence.

18 I believe that the Bible is the written Word of God and that it represents a universal truth
19 that is interpreted over time and space. I believe that scripture is holy, and I also believe that it is
20 the inspired Word of God written by humans for particular contexts. I believe that scripture holds
21 truth in modern times and that humans are continuing to seek who God is and what God is doing in
22 the world. I believe that in scripture, we see God's love, grace, and covenant for all of creation.

23 I believe that all humans were formed in the imago dei and that we each are called to be
24 disciples in the world. I believe God's ultimate call on our lives is to love God and to love and serve
25 one another. I believe in the equality of all human beings, regardless of age, sex, gender, race,
26 orientation, ability, or other identifying factor. I believe that God created each of us as unique beings
27 and that we are called to celebrate diversity while also recognizing one another as each children of
28 God.

29 I believe that humanity was tempted and fell into sin. I believe that we each are sinful and
30 that we cannot escape from sin on our own. I believe that through grace alone, we are redeemed. I
31 believe that we do good works in the world not as a requirement for salvation but as a sign of faith
32 and as a response to God's call on our lives.

33 I believe in the church as both an institution in the world and as the collective body of
34 believers. I believe that the church is needed as a structure for people to gather, worship, and grow
35 in faith. I also believe that the church should not act as an insular structure limited by building,
36 congregation, or denomination. I believe the church universal is charged to feed the hungry, clothe
37 the naked, care for the sick, comfort the broken, and embrace all people. I believe the church is not
38 called to wait for people to come to it, but rather that the church and its members are sent into the
39 world to love and serve it in community.

40 I believe in the sacraments of baptism and communion. I believe that baptism is a sign and
41 seal of God's covenant of love and salvation. I believe that in baptism, the baptized and the
42 community of believers make a commitment to support one another in faith. I believe that one can
43 be baptized at any stage of life and acknowledge one baptism in the name of the Trinity. I believe in
44 the real presence of Christ at communion. I believe the bread and cup are both reminders of the
45 sacrifice of Jesus Christ at the crucifixion and also are a sign of the life of Christ in the world today. I
46 believe that the table is open to all who approach it and that communion is a sacred act that
47 connects us with God.