

A Credo Statement
by Todd M. Carter
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"Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" - Rom. 15:7

I am a child of God, saved by the Grace of God through the complete work of Christ on Cross. To live the Christian life is about grace, profoundly grace in almost every aspect of the Christian's walk. I am a husband of 35 years to Deborah Ann, a father of 4 children and just recently a grandfather of two! I feel the closest to God when I'm gardening. Like someone confessed, "life began in a garden."

I approach every human being with the gifts and graces that God has kindly given me. They are: compassion, reverence and respect for the sacred person hood of others. One of my personal goals in life is to be a "safe person" for others and to offer hospitality in a "noisy and violent world." I would like to be known as a gentle soul. Keeping the "means of grace" or celebrating the disciplines sustain my daily journey, when I cooperate with the grace of God. Living a spiritual life is not easy.

I believe I am trinitarian to the bone! God the Creator, breathed all life, the Redeemer who took first steps to bring us back to relationship and fellowship. God the Son, is the Savior and reconciler of the world. By his Incarnation we are uniquely Christian. By Christ's Resurrection from the grave, hope, assurance and joy are proclaimed in the face of death, despair and sin!! God the Holy Spirit, is the most unpredictable person of the Trinity. The Spirit is the breath of God, the wind to transform, guide, correct and protect the Church and all who are loved by God.

I believe the Bible to be the Word of God given in the word of men and women of history. I accept the complete canon of 66 books. The Bible is the "rule of faith." Being intensely practical yet it does not address every subject with authority. I have found it to be a "means of grace" and key for living. Almost every book in the Bible sings the narrative of Salvation History. The Exodus, the Parable of Prodigal and the Emmaus account are the highlights of my personal theology and understanding of God, the Gospel and the Christian experience. Having spent most of my life in the Wesleyan tradition as an EUB and then as an U.M. Methodist, our hymnody informs my faith.

I believe the Church is what Christ risks it all on and has no other plan! As Head of the Church, we find ourselves as the body of Christ. As Christians we are commanded to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Commission unto the world. As a hospital chaplain, I am entrusted to care for others in a clinical setting as a night chaplain. I regard this sacred calling with great respect and reverence. Nightly I perform a ministry that many cannot do or would not want to do.

The Church exists to glorify God and proclaim Christ in worship and service by people of all ages and races. The Church celebrates Holy Communion and Baptism. I uphold a traditional Protestant view of two sacraments, though Christianity is varied and divided on it's practices and views. I am grateful for my Christian baptism at an early age in the M E Church, confirmation in the EUB Church and my Christian conversion experience during the "Jesus Movement" in the 70's. I am thankful for my life-long connection to the Presbyterian church by marriage, and having had supporting churches as Alaskan missionaries with SEND North. We give thanks for our spiritual home found at Trinity Presbyterian. Here we receive many challenges and invitations to Christian formation and service with a congregation serving locally and globally. Trinity is a unique Christian community of vision. It is a joy and responsibility to serve on Session at this time.