

Statement of Faith: Ruth Reinhold November 6, 2017

I am a daily follower of Jesus—the Christ. In him, long ago, I found life—abundant life not only for my soul, but also for my mind and direction for all matters of practical living. In Jesus, I found grace and I'm quite determined, every day, to grant grace to others!

I'm deeply rooted in the Reformed tradition—believing that our whole way of “being” and “seeing” in the world is marred by self-interest. We are stuck in mirrors of delusion and if we come to know the living Jesus, it is an act of grace.

I believe in an evil force. I don't understand it nor do I give it any attention.

I believe we are immensely blessed to experience the wonders of this earth with its ravaging beauty and complexity. We were made to enjoy life on earth and we are responsible for the earth—the land itself, the people and the animals! We are accountable to Jesus for what we do--and what we fail to do--to preserve this unique planet and its life. I expect to see a new heaven and a new earth.

I do not believe in universal salvation. I love standing in the confessional tradition that says, simply “I found my life in Jesus...come and see.” I believe that due to tradition and sin, we often think things are sinful when they are simply custom. And there are things we think are “just fine” that are perverse from God's point of view. I confess that seeing the world through God's eyes is at best--difficult! A deep knowledge and regular reading of the authoritative Scriptures keeps us heading in the right direction. I believe God's ways and will pours forth from these remarkable ancient yet always new God-breathed texts.

I'm particularly concerned with the following issues: mental illness, the preservation of the planet, the proliferation of guns, the suffering of refugees, the growing divide between the rich and the rest of humanity, the international sex trade and the serious threat of terrorism. The gospel message speaks to these ills and God is found in the middle of these human tragedies—heartbroken. God beckons us to get our hands dirty and love his people who find themselves in human misery.

There is no hope outside of God--who we know through Jesus! It is the Spirit of Jesus that transforms believers, gives us dreams, awakens our conscience and gives us inexpressible joy. We must be more awake to the

Spirit; more awake to his leading! We must find the courage to speak of our faith in relevant ways. We must rediscover prayer! We must serve the poor! We must speak up for all that is right and noble and just! We must go out into the world with "grace-filled eyes." Grace is the lens.