

## Statement of Faith by Sarah Chivington-Buck

I have come to know the Source of Life through experiences in prayer, relationships with other people, and engagement with the Scriptures. I trust in this Source of Life, the Creator God, who is a beautiful mystery, somehow both knowable and unknowable. This both delights and frustrates me. Yet what I know of God, my heavenly Parent, is unwavering love and extravagant grace.

I have come to know the Source of Life as the Christ. I find the teachings of Jesus compelling, his compassion inspiring, and his strength empowering. I want to follow this One who revealed to a broken and struggling humanity the radical nature of God's love. I believe in the saving power of Jesus' living, dying and rising. I trust the Christ, the Word, who was with God in the beginning, participated in creation, inhabited the body of Jesus, and who rose again to dwell with God. I believe that Christ is working to reconcile all things to God.

I have come to know the Source of Life as a presence dwelling inside of me, surrounding me, closer to me than my very breath – the Holy Spirit. I have experienced the Spirit guiding and comforting me, challenging and redirecting me. I trust that the Spirit of God has been and will continue to be at work in the world, bringing about God's dream of a new creation in partnership with God's people.

I have come to know the Source of Life through my involvement with local congregations. I have seen glimpses of God's kingdom reality breaking into our midst when grudges melt into forgiveness and when diverse people coexist with love and compassion. The church is called to be God's presence in the world. We fail miserably some of the time. Yet at others times, God is revealed astonishingly and beautifully through people. I believe every single one of us is called to manifest God's love in the world using the unique gifts we have been given.

I encountered the Source of Life in my baptism, this outward sign of God's amazing grace that preceded my ability to consciously believe. I was welcomed into a church family that helped me know newness of life as God's beloved child. I have come to know the presence of Christ through the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup. Participation in this feast of hope nourishes us that we might bring hope to a hurting world.

I honor the reformed tradition in which I grew up and in whose pools I swam during seminary. I believe in the value of learning from those who have come before us and on whose shoulders we stand. I believe our scriptures reveal God to us in a special way.

I have faith that although my beliefs sometimes waver, God's love is greater than my ability to believe in any given moment. I have faith that God's grace covers all our human errors. I have faith that our Triune God is sustaining all of life, tenderly caring for all of creation, and ever inviting humanity to participate in this redemptive and life-giving movement for the whole world.