

1 **Statement of Faith for Ben Fitzgerald-Fye**

2 I believe that at the moment of our creation, God offered humankind the breath of life. From the
3 beginning, God breathed love and peace. Humankind, created in God's image, was placed in a
4 garden of innocence to glorify God.¹ In an act of selfishness and sin, humans chose to disobey
5 God. Their disobedience created a separation from God.² The nature of human sin, the
6 challenge of humanity's creation, is an ongoing tendency to act in ways that separate us from
7 God. Despite our failings, I believe that God is a loving and seeking God in a reconciling
8 relationship with humanity. This is the God of gracious love for creation.

9 I believe that this loving God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ for the purpose of
10 teaching love, offering reconciliation, and freeing us from sin. Jesus Christ, fully human and
11 fully divine, walked among the people as the living Word to speak the truth of God's love and to
12 teach us the ways of peace and reconciliation.³ Through miracles, actions, and teaching, Jesus
13 displayed God's power, compassion and spoke the Word of God directly to the people of God.
14 Jesus offered healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and the promise of God's coming
15 Kingdom.⁴ Jesus, free from sin, endured persecution, betrayal, injustice, and ultimately
16 crucifixion. I believe that Jesus bore the sins of this world as he suffered on the cross and
17 offered God's forgiveness for humankind's betrayal. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave,
18 conquering death and sin, and appeared to the disciples proclaiming the saving work of God and
19 speaking once again God's call to love and to proclaim the hope of reconciliation and the
20 enduring love of a gracious God. In our gratitude for the sacrificial work and the resurrection of
21 Christ, we work to glorify God through worship and mission.

22 I believe the same Holy Spirit that descended as a dove during Christ's baptism also claims each
23 of us in the waters of baptism and ignites in us the enduring flame of faith. Through the work of
24 the Spirit, the people of God are gathered together to worship and glorify God. This is the Spirit
25 that offers God's empowerment to the church. The Spirit of God inspires each of us to work for
26 peace, to love neighbor, and to comfort those who are poor and suffering.⁵

¹ Genesis 2

² *Book of Confessions*, Confession of 1967, 9.12

³ *BOC*, Brief Statement of Faith, 11.2

⁴ *BOC*, Confession of 1967, 9.32, Confession of Belhar, 10.7 and Luke 4:16-19

⁵ John 14:26, Acts 1:8

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28 I believe that God speaks to us through the Scriptures as the Spirit guides and illuminates our
29 reading. The biblical texts offer us the fullest exposition of Christ and are therefore our most
30 complete example of God's self-revelation. Through the inspiration of the Spirit, we are called
31 to read, proclaim, and preach the Scriptures as revealed to us.

32

33 I believe in the triune God revealed to us through Scripture. I believe that through the power of
34 the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we are given the gift of salvation. I believe that the triune God
35 is the living and present force in our daily lives and that the communal nature of the Trinitarian
36 God forms the basis for our own call to community with one another.

37

38 I believe that we are brought closer to God through sacraments. Through baptism, we are
39 claimed by the Holy Spirit and share in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.⁶ Through the
40 Lord's Supper, we are offered the nourishment of Christ's presence, reminded of and rededicated
41 to God's covenant, and assured of the Kingdom yet to come.⁷

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⁶ *BOC*. Second Helvetic, 5.187.

⁷ *BOC*. 1967, 9.52.