

STATEMENT OF FAITH  
Suggested Format and Content

One of the final requirements for ordination at the end of the Preparation for Ministry Process is the writing of a one page Statement of Faith. It should be typed single spaced on one page only, with adequate margins. These are suggestions of topics to be mentioned in the statement. These are also topics about which a candidate might expect to be examined by the Committee on Ministry (or CPM) and Presbytery.

- The Nature of God
- The Experience of God
- Sin and Evil
- The Life and Work of Jesus
- Jesus' Humanity and Divinity
- Christology and Atonement
- The Holy Spirit
- The Bible
- The Sacraments
- The Nature of the Church
- The Ministry and Mission of the Church in the world

The prepared statement will be used by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry at the final assessment time with the Candidate and used again by any Committee on Ministry (or CPM) and Presbytery as a basis for their oral exam of the Candidate prior to ordination. The Candidate will have the opportunity to discuss it, defend it, explain it and perhaps even to change it.

Because this Statement of Faith is very important, it is helpful for the inquirer/candidate to be working on a statement of what he or she believes from the very beginning of the Preparation for Ministry process. In some way a preliminary statement is part of every annual consultation with the CPM. It can be discussed with a professor, a pastor, an advisor or with other significant people in the candidate's life. It should be "a work in progress" that is changed from time to time to reflect growth in faith and understanding. The statement should truly reflect a candidate's beliefs and commitment. It is hoped that the statement will reveal some of the person of the candidate and not just be quotes from scripture or theological books. We encourage you not to rely heavily on only one historic statement of faith.

The final Statement of Faith will be reproduced as submitted, so poor typing, spelling and grammatical errors, and cliches which can distract a reader should be avoided. It will be read by lay people and ministers, so language should be chosen accordingly. Remember, language that is popular in seminary circles may be inappropriate and misunderstood by others.