



## REV. LUCY DERGARABEDIAN Statement of Faith

***My View of the Bible.*** | The Bible as Word of God provides the foundation for my life, ministry, preaching and teaching. It is the Inspired Word of God. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain everything that is necessary for faith in Jesus Christ. By its light and power, sinners are convinced and converted. Believers are comforted and edified. The Bible is the inspiration of God which guides us. "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

***My Understanding of the Trinity.*** | I believe in God, the Creator, and Jesus Christ, His Son through whom we can become partakers in God's kingdom. I believe in the Holy Spirit, God's continuing presence, who helps us to know and do God's will in our lives, as the Scripture bears witness.

God the father Almighty is maker of heaven and earth, eternal, infinite, immeasurable, omnipotent, incomprehensible, and invisible. We are created to be in Communion with our God of love who is sovereign over all parts of life.

***My belief in the person and work of Jesus Christ.*** | God, the Son, Incarnate is Jesus Christ, who lived in this world and shared the needs, temptations, joys and sorrows of humanity. He took upon Himself the judgment under which all human beings stand convicted. God raised Him from the dead, vindicated Him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor and won the victory over sin and death for all humanity. This act shows God's love for all humanity, and God's desire to save all those who, believing in the saving act of Jesus Christ as the mediator between God and humanity, repent and trust in Him. Jesus is the head and savior of the church. By God's grace we declare Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Jesus is the Wounded Healer.

***My belief concerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit.*** | God the Holy Spirit is God's continuing presence among us, who gives us courage, empowers us, guides us and binds us together with all believers in the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit helps us to experience the power of the Word of God in the deep meaning of Scripture. The Spirit helps me to live in love, working for the peace, unity and purity of the church.

The Spirit is the Mediator, the small voice when we are headed in the wrong direction, who leads us back to Christ. "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." (John 14:26)

***My view regarding the nature and purpose of the church.*** | The church is God's community where the Word is proclaimed, and the sacraments are administered to help persons receive the grace of God through faith. The church rests on Jesus Christ. It is the Body of Christ and He is the head. Also, it is one of the bearers of God's kingdom, an instrument of God's Word and Spirit in the world.

The Reformed tradition recognizes the working of God within the church community. As a follower of this heritage, I believe that we need to be an active part of the Christian family. Through worship, prayer, Scripture study, sacraments, and fellowship, we grow as a people of God in the church.

The church is like the father who looks out and spots the one who is cut off. The father is anxiously, patiently, and lovingly waiting for the lost sons and daughters to come. "But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." (Luke 15:20) The church is a place where reconciliation can take place (Luke 15:22-24).