

## The Faith of the Church as Expressed in the Book of Confessions (

*As found in the Book of Order G-2.0300-.0500*

*Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?*

### The Faith of the Catholic (Whole) Church:

- Trinity: One God, three Persons; the relationship and love in the Godhead speaks to the love we should trust and embody in the world. The will and action of Jesus Christ are the same as the will and action of God. In meeting Christ, we meet God.
- Incarnation: To know Jesus is to know God.

Irenaus (early teacher of the church): [Jesus] became what we are in order for us to become what he is.”

### The Faith of the Protestant Reformation:

- Justification by Faith alone: We cannot justify ourselves or make ourselves right; only God can make things right with God, with others, and within ourselves.

We are not to trust and serve God *so* God will love us, but because God loves us, we should trust and serve God

*Justification*: how one becomes a Christian

*Sanctification*: how one grows in and lives out the Christian life

- Scripture alone: Our knowledge of God and God's purpose for humanity comes from the Bible.

The Old and New Testament are of equal importance, revealing God to us in a different way.

### The Faith of the Reformed Tradition:

- Sovereignty of God: God is the supreme authority throughout the universe.
- Election: Our salvation (justification) through Jesus is God's generous gift to us and not the result of our own accomplishments.
- Covenant Life: It is everyone's responsibility to share the Good News with the whole world.
- Stewardship: not just money, but the whole of life is to be a gift to God. It is the **lifestyle of discipleship**
- Sin: all have fallen short of the glory of God, but God is faithful still
- Obedience: Recognition of the human tendency to idolatry, and tyranny, which calls the people of God to work for the transformation of society by seeking justice and living in obedience to the Word of God.