

## Statement of Faith

Rev. Chan Sok Park

I was raised in the Presbyterian Church in South Korea, where my earliest memories of faith were shaped by the rhythms of Sunday worship, church retreats, and the prayers of my parents—both Presbyterian ministers and biblical scholars—whose quiet devotion left a deep imprint on me. In that environment, I learned to trust that God is real, present, and steadfast—a God who accompanies us through joy and hardship and who calls us into community long before we fully understand what that calling means.

My understanding of God has grown over time, but at its core remains this conviction: God the Father is the source of life, the One who created us in love and continues to sustain us in ways seen and unseen. Even in moments when the future felt uncertain—leaving home for theological education in the United States, navigating new cultures and languages—I sensed God’s steady presence guiding me forward.

I confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the One whose humanity has always drawn me near. In Christ, I have found someone who not only teaches truth but embodies it. His ministry among the vulnerable, his courage in confronting injustice, his compassion for the brokenhearted, and his deep trust in the Father are the patterns I long to follow in my own ministry. Christ’s death and resurrection are not abstract doctrines for me—they are the ground of my hope and the reason I dare to believe that grace can break through even the most difficult seasons of life.

I believe the Holy Spirit has been the quiet yet active companion of my journey, often leading me in directions I did not expect. The Spirit strengthened me as I served in various PC(USA) congregations during my theological training, teaching me how broad and diverse the body of Christ can be. Later, when I settled in northeastern Ohio and found a home in a Korean immigrant congregation belonging to the Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad (KPCA), I experienced the Spirit’s guidance again. That community welcomed me, nurtured me, and affirmed my call, leading to my ordination in 2017. I remain grateful for the senior pastor at the time, and the congregation, who saw gifts in me and entrusted me with pastoral responsibility.

As someone trained in biblical studies, I affirm Scripture as the living and authoritative witness to God’s work, and I depend on the Spirit’s illumination to read it with humility, curiosity, and courage. I also cherish the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, not only as theological symbols but as moments when God meets us with tangible grace. In these shared acts, I am reminded that faith is never a solo journey—we belong to God, and we belong to one another. Throughout my ministry in the United States, the Reformed tradition within the PC(USA) has shaped me consistently: its insistence on God’s sovereignty, its trust that God is not finished reforming the church, its call to justice and compassion, and its commitment to communal discernment. These values have resonated deeply with my own understanding of what it means to be the church in a complex and often divided world.

For these reasons, and with a heart full of gratitude, I now seek to transfer my membership to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This is not a departure from my past but a continuation of the path God has been carving out for me over many years. I desire to serve Christ within the PC(USA), drawing from both my Korean Presbyterian heritage and my experiences in diverse American congregations. I hope to contribute to a church that values thoughtful theology, compassionate service, and a commitment to justice rooted in the gospel.

Trusting in the Triune God who has led me this far, I commit myself to serve the church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.