

## Statement of Faith – Rev. Joseph Reid

God in Christ is the center of my life and is the transforming power that changed me and can change all for good. I believe everyone and everything was created by God and belongs to Him. I believe that through God's Word we can learn daily how to live in obedience to His command to commune often, with water, communion, prayer, meditation, abundant life and joyful living, having no other God But Him. I believe in God's Grace and Mercy extended to me through Jesus Christ. The essence of that Grace and Mercy is Love. God in Christ was crucified and experienced the humanity of our suffering and pain, which is sin and overcame it, enabling us to overcome sin through Him. This also enables us to overcome death through the incarnation of His Holy Spirit to eternal life. I believe God is sovereign, reigning eternally over all things in heaven and earth. This love is expressed in God as represented in the form of the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This God is expressed in creatures of His creation including humanity, especially the poor, captives, and oppressed. I believe God is human and divine, expressed in Christ's life on earth, death and Divine resurrection, which saves. This plan of salvation helps us understand our reason for being. God knows our faults, weaknesses and troubles. He feels our pain and suffering as well as our joy and happiness. God in Christ enables us to overcome guilt and shame and pardons us of recurring sin. Christ therefore calls us, some to preach the good news of the Gospel, others to lead as suffering servants, all to serve others in His name and to His Glory. It is this good news that helps us through Him bring release to the captives, healing to the sick and binding up the brokenhearted. I believe we become part of this gift to humanity when we accept Christ in our life. Our belief that Christ reigns over justice and mercy allows us to worship Him in spirit and truth and gives us the ability to serve others, do justice and walk humbly with Him. This service to others enables us to overcome issues of race, gender and differences that exist from choice and birth. This blessing of love, tolerances and patience enables us to be good stewards of freedom, peace, the environment and other parts of God's creation entrusted us.