

I received my Masters of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in 2010, subsequently attended CPE at Albany Medical Center under the supervision of Rev. Harlan Ratmeyer, and have been under care as inquirer and candidate for ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church in the Albany Presbytery until my recent appointment as the Parish Leader for Schoharie United Presbyterian Church. My undergraduate bachelor degree was received from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2007 in Science, Technology, and Society Studies. Westminster Presbyterian Church has been the church of my young adult faith, but my early faith development through confirmation and High school graduation was at Union Presbyterian Church in Schenectady, now closed. Summers I attended the Methodist Troy Conference Skye Farm Church Camp because they had an emphasis on a music theme one of the camp weeks. My grandfather was a minister of music, as well as two courtesy uncles, and the importance of congregational song as an avenue of faith, prayer, and communion has been a life-long fundamental understanding of my own faith expression: "When I sing or make music, I pray to God. When we sing or make music, we pray together."

I look forward to working professionally with the members of the Albany Presbytery, some of whom are known to me through my long history in the general Capital District area. I also anticipate meeting more members of this body, forming partnerships and creating or participating in ministry opportunities. I have already been active in the Ecumenical Community in the Schoharie valley, planned and participated in ecumenical worship services for Lent and other valley-wide events.

Andrea Joy Holroyd

### Statement of Faith

I believe in God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, this realm and the next, things seen and unseen, known and unknown. I believe God is within us and all-around us and there is no place we can go, no dimension we exist within that can separate us from God.

I believe God came to us in the form of Jesus, vulnerable as a child, to show us the power of our own love. I believe God came to us in the form of Jesus the teacher/healer to show us the power of our own belief. I believe Jesus showed us through his life and death there is nothing that can separate us from God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God that moves in our hearts and minds and illumines the God moments. I believe the Holy Spirit speaks to us and through us God's message for the world in manners we each could be capable of understanding and have the potential to respond.

I believe in the cloud of witnesses, those faithful who have gone before, these present at this time, and those faithful still to come. It is the believers of every time and space, those known to us and those unknown, that combine to make the gathered community, the church, the body of Christ in the world. I believe in the laughter, wisdom, and startling frankness of children. I believe in the vision of the sightless, the clarity of the infirm. I believe in miracles, the everyday and the fantastic, the breeze that passes by carrying the scent of a loved one at an opportune time, and the rescue worker who finds a survivor in the rubble of a passed tornado. I believe God is in each of these moments, and in moments we cannot describe.

I believe we are called to listen with an open heart to the scriptures, using both heart and mind to help us discern God's will in and for our lives. The scriptures and confessions are written testimonies of faith, God's promised relationship with all of us, how people have responded to God's call and grace with faith, trust, and belief. I believe the very Word of God has been recorded in our holy book, but also written on our hearts. I believe that before we are even aware of these scriptures, God calls and works in, through, and around each and every one of us. I believe we have been gifted the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as seals and signs of the covenant recorded and promised both in our holy scriptures and the confessional statements of the church.

Baptism is the visible sign of the call to relationship with God, and the baptism of children witnesses God's love making claim before a person is able to respond in faith, but baptism as a child is not the only way to enter into covenant relationship. The believer who makes a proclamation of faith and is baptized witnesses the truth that God's grace inspires the response of faithfulness.

Statement of Faith

The Lord's Supper is a great gift that sustains our faith as well as a reminder of who is welcome at the table. Just as Jesus broke bread not only with his disciples, but with everyone he encountered, we too receive the gift of offering welcome and fellowship with every person we encounter. The Lord's Supper signifies our communion with Jesus and in him. When we break the bread and pour the wine of the Lord's Supper, we are also in communion with believers of every time and place.

I believe in God's grace to make all things right and new, in God's own time, which may not be comprehensible to us. I believe God calls each of us to work to bring about the Kingdom of God by living well with each other, taking the teachings that Jesus taught the disciples and all who would listen, and loving one another the way Christ loved us.