

# *Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith*

## *1. The Mystery of the Trinity*

All Christians believe that there is but one God and that God is manifested in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## *2. The Incarnation of the eternal word of God in Jesus Christ*

We believe that God came in the flesh in Jesus Christ. We believe in the Lordship of Christ, the Resurrection, and Atonement for our sins through Christ.

## *3. Justification (Grace alone, Faith alone)*

We do not earn our salvation or have to work for it. God freely gives us a new, vital relationship to Him.

## *4. Scripture as the final authority for salvation and the life of faith by the Holy Spirit.*

We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal and God's Word to us.

## *5. God's Sovereignty*

God is ultimately in charge – things do not depend on us. God is all powerful, all knowing, all loving and all wise and reigns with providential care over His universe.

## *6. God's Election of people for salvation and service*

God chose us (comfort), so no matter how far we wander, God won't let us go. We express our gratitude for this gift from God by participating in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ.

## *7. Covenant life of the church, ordering itself according to the Word of God.*

God has drawn his chosen people together as a community. We symbolize and seal the promises of the gospel through the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Other protestant denominations believe they decided to join together as a group of like-minded adults, but Presbyterians believe God chose us to be together despite differences and that we are called to learn to get along by following Scripture.

## *8. A faithful Steward of God's creation*

We were created with responsibility to care for one another and the world in which God placed us.

## *9. The Sin of idolatry*

Idolatry is the giving of our ultimate commitment to anything other than God.

## *10. Seeking justice and living in Obedience to the Word of God.*

Through its indwelling, the Holy Spirit leads each of us on our journey of Sanctification. Sanctification tells us that by the Holy Spirit, God works in us, helping us to leave our sin behind and grow into a new and different kind of life as God's children living for Christ our Lord. Regarding justice, our task is not to be successful, but to be faithful in our attempts to transform our society.