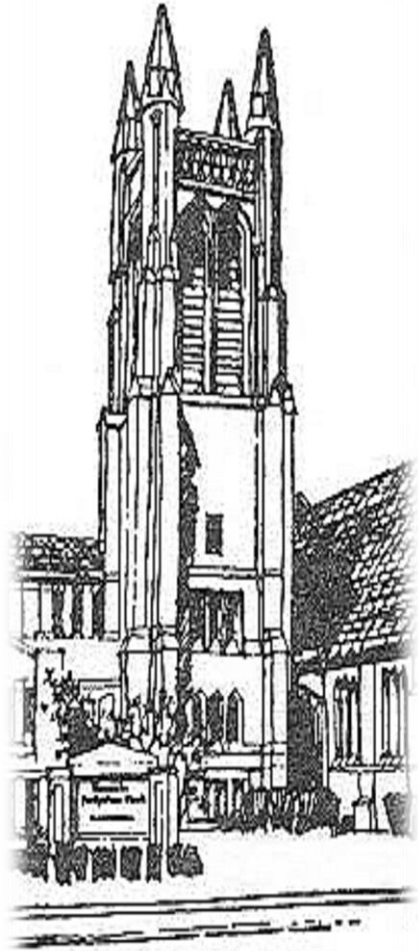


Sunday, April 28, 2019

Statements

A Statement of Faith & Confirmation from
Westminster Presbyterian Church by
The 2018-2019 Confirmands





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Braden Thomas Barton

Baptized on March 6, 2005

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Braden's mentor is Todd Knox

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in one God, creator of everything we see. Loving and forgiving of sins. I believe that Jesus is the son of God. He came to Earth to help all of humanity. He healed the injured, healed the blind, fed the hungry and forgave us for our sins. He died on the cross for us, and in the process took away my sins. I believe in the Holy Ghost- a way that I can connect with God. I believe that God treats everyone the same even though everyone is different. I believe that prayer really does help anyone if you truly believe. God has given me more confidence with communicating with others in school and at church. I know that if I ever need help from someone, God and Jesus will be there for me.

Statement of Confirmation

Being confirmed and becoming an official member of the church shows that my faith is real. I want to feel like I belong to a group who believes in God the way that I do. I want to help make decisions that affect our church and I will stay involved in our church by continuing to participate in youth group and in worship services by being an Acolyte, Bible carrier or Cross Carrier.

By being a part of the church I can achieve more as a Christian than just being a Christian by myself. An example of this is when we went shopping together for Contact Ministries during Christmas time so that people who couldn't afford to go Christmas shopping had a way to give gifts to their children. And we are still working together to raise money for our mission trip so that we

can help fix homes and talk about the importance of God to the people in Appalachia this summer.

I know that God is always with me and helps me in my life in many ways. I know that when I am nervous or afraid, God will keep me safe. And God has helped me when I asked him to give me courage and strength, like when I tried out for the baseball team, or during my jiu-jitsu tournaments. I know God will be there for me forever.

Emily Allison Brower

Baptized on December 18, 2005

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Emily's mentor is Tara Fritsch.

Affirmation of Faith

Way back when, at the beginning of time, there was God. In church, God is known as the guy who created heaven, earth, and the universe. He created light, plants, the stars, animals, water, humans, and all this other God stuff. Most Christians think of God as an all-powerful, divine being. To me, God is simply love. Even though we all do bad stuff sometimes, God is there to forgive us because his love is unconditional. I can assure myself that God will always be there for me because his love for me, and everybody is everlasting.

Later on in time, God decided that he loved the world so much that he gave us his only son--Jesus Christ. Now, Jesus was no ordinary Jew. He went around performing acts that could only be described as miracles, and spread God's love. Eventually, people began to worship Jesus, calling him the messiah. When Jesus got a little older, he died on the cross for all of our sins; which was really nice of him. Then, Jesus went to hell, but then he came back from the dead and went up to heaven with God. I call Jesus the good shepherd because like any good shepherd does for his lamb, Jesus guides us, keeps us safe, and will always find us if we get lost. Jesus spread the word of God and I believe it is the duty of all Christians to continue his mission.

The Holy Spirit was in Jesus, and is also in all of us! It's God's little way of being with each of his children forever, and always. For me, the Holy Spirit is what fills my body when I pray.

If I'm ever anxious, or scared, or worried, I remember that the Holy Spirit is in me and that everything is going to be ok. Without the Holy Spirit my faith would be weak, so I am very thankful for it.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all one--the holy trinity. They all make up what we refer to as God, they have all led me in my faith journey, and they will stay with me, even after confirmation.

Statement of Confirmation

I have sat through three different confirmations in my life. All three were those of my four older brothers. Now, it's finally my turn to be confirmed. After coming to Westminster on Sunday mornings for my entire life, this is something that I have highly anticipated. Westminster is where I was baptized as a baby, where I sung in the children's choir, where I went to VBS every summer, where I went to Sunday school, where I go to youth group, and where I am being confirmed. As a youth at the church I have helped out in numerous activities such as acolyting at least once a month, making baked potatoes in the spud bake, selling trivia night tickets, cooking a meal for the hungry, speaking on youth Sunday, and much more. I 100% intend to continue in serving the church. Per usual, I will attend the morning service as well as senior high youth group. I also plan on traveling to Virginia this summer for my first mission trip. I can't think of any specific time that I have felt the presence of God, but I do feel something holy each time I help at the church. There's just something about giving back to a place that has given so much to me that makes me feel great. Westminster has helped me find a community from a young age and I am very thankful for the church. I hope that I can continue to serve it well as a member and grow closer to God while doing so.

Jonathan Charles Eastvold, Jr

Baptized on June 26, 2005

National Presbyterian Church, Washington D.C.

Charlie's mentor is Dave Leonatti.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in the Trinity, the three separate entities of God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit, yet all the same. I believe that Jesus came to Earth as a baby, fully God, fully human. He was the son of the Virgin Mary, who was engaged to Joseph of Nazareth. He taught, healed the sick, rose the dead, ate and conversed with sinners and outcasts, and gathered disciples. Despite this, he was accused of blasphemy, arrested, and sentenced to be crucified. He died for our sins, and since he had not committed a sin, he was able to pay the price for us to go to heaven. He went to hell, and rose again on the third day. I believe that one day he will return.

I believe that though I am not perfect, I am forgiven through Jesus. I believe that we are all to love one another as Jesus loved us. It is our job as Christians to show kindness and acceptance to everyone, as well as share the Word with others, not through forcing it upon them, but by showing God's love in everything we do. We must stop discrimination in all forms, whether the basis is sex, race, gender, sexuality, nationality, religion, class, ethnicity, age, or anything else, and protect the environment entrusted to our care back in the Garden of Eden.

I believe that the church is not the building, but the meeting of two or more people gathering to worship God together. I believe that God is all-powerful, yet still loves us enough that he sent his only son to die for our sins. I also believe that Jesus loved us and God so much that even though he was human, and had

many doubts, he still kept doing what he knew he must do to save us, even though it was almost impossible to not turn back.

I believe that the Holy Spirit inspires us to do God's work, and inspires us. I trust in the Holy Trinity to bring me through every challenge that I face, but cannot overcome. I believe that there is only one Triune God, who all Christians worship.

Statement of Confirmation

I am would like to join Westminster Presbyterian Church because I believe that even though my parents are involved in the church, I am old enough that I should also contribute to this church, as it has helped me a lot over the past year. I especially thank all the adults involved with the youth, and the youth themselves, who accepted me automatically. I think that I will be active in the church by attending the Junior and Senior High Youth Group, attending worship, volunteering for VBS, giving money, volunteering as an usher, and possibly attending Mission Trip at some point.

I remember many moments when I have been going through something, and God has helped me through it, but I think that one of the biggest times was when I was lost on Isle Royale. During the Summer of 2015, my mom, Aunt Janani, Kristianna, Kate, Juliana, and I were on a backpacking trip on Isle Royale, an island in the middle of Lake Superior. On our first few hikes, I had been the last one to the campsite, so on our longest hike, I was determined to get to the campsite first, and then rest until it was time to cook the pasta, it was a special meal for finishing that hike.

However, while I was running ahead, I came to a fork in the trail. Thankfully there was a couple hiking past with a map, so I asked to look at it. As you probably predicted, I looked at the map upside-down, gave it back, and went on my merry way.

Soon enough, however, I subconsciously realized my error, but kept telling myself that I was still going the right way. I even grew paranoid, thinking that the couple had purposely shown me the wrong map in order to kidnap me at a dead end. I was looking at this huge predicament, and I never once thought of God, and how he could help me out of this situation. As the sun slowly sank below the horizon, I had the slight hope that the campsite was straight ahead of me. I put down my pack and my now empty water bottle, and ran ahead intending to get help from my family to bring back my stuff. Sadly, when I went on I reached a desolate peninsula of rocks and moss.

It was then that I stopped denying it, and faced the fact that I was lost, miles from my family, on a cold night, with no water, food, sleeping bag, shelter, or even a coat to cover my t-shirt. I remember having the manic energy of a fish trapped in a net. I kept walking, but my path was blocked by a moose.

When I saw the beauty of where I was, I remembered that God had created all of this, and could save me. I prayed to him as I walked in circles on the winding maze of a trail. I finally lay shivering on a patch of moss, cold, starving, thirsty, lonely, and afraid. I thought of my family, and how they would move to another campsite the next day, trying to get to the main area to contact a ranger. I heard helicopters flying around, but I lay there, knowing they would not see me.

Again, I realized that God still knew exactly where I was. I cried myself to sleep, the loons seeming to cry with me. (Side note:

Loons used to be known for calling when they discovered someone on their territory, so they would be known as friends to lost children)

Anyway, I woke up, lethargic and in pain. The mosquitoes were all over me, as if I was about to die. I thought I would. Finally, I did get up, and at that very moment, two hikers walked over the hill! I thank God to this day for answering my prayers in this dire situation.

Louisa Claire Eldridge

Baptized on March 20, 2005

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Louisa's mentor is Rev. Sarah McGill.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe that God is a being who decided to create people that he could help and guide. He created us for a self-fulfilling purpose. I also believe that God would be powerless without us. If it weren't for disciples, God would not be as religiously prominent as he is today and would have no one to spread his message to. I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of Mary and Joseph, and that he is inadvertently related to God. I believe that the Holy Spirit is a subconscious created by God to help us to help ourselves instead of facing the real world problems and evil in the world, which God takes care of for us. I believe that these three things are related to each other because they are all subsets of God. By definition, I believe that the church is a building where people feel safe and secure enough to practice their religions. I personally don't believe that the church is anything less. For my faith, I will make and follow through on promises.

Statement of Confirmation

As a member of the church, I plan to participate in mission trips, volunteer at VBS, and continue to help in Sunday School classes and in the nursery.

I am very excited to go on my first mission trip this summer with the rest of my confirmation class. Since I don't really know

what to expect, I'm excited for whatever happens and I look forward to finding out, as well as doing it again next summer.

I am also very excited to be participating in VBS again this summer, as I have volunteered for the past two summers and want to continue to volunteer for as long as I can. It's a very fun event and I love helping the kids learn about God in new and relatable ways that they love too.

Furthermore, I will continue to help each available Sunday in either Sunday School classes, or in the nursery. My mom is a Sunday School teacher and I like helping her in class with the fourth and fifth graders.

I'm also considering becoming a deacon at some point, seeing that my mom became a deacon this year and my dad was both a deacon and an elder at one point. I'm interested in what my mom is doing and I'm kind of learning it with her, making it more appealing to me. While I'm not totally sure what being a deacon entails, I want to learn.

Caroline Julia Haynor

Baptized on July 16, 2006
First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Caroline's mentor is Becky Martin.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty. I believe there is one living and true God. He is perfect, loving, kind and understanding of everyone. I believe that God is always there for everyone and cares for them no matter what they have done! I believe God is a miracle and his only son died on the cross for our sins. I believe God created the earth, water and everything in between. I believe in the Triune God; God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is the Father. He forgives all and watches over us all. Jesus Christ is the son. He is the teacher and gave his life on the cross so that we can live an eternal life. The Holy Spirit works through faith and shows us how to have faith- how to believe in things that we cannot see. All three are separate and connected as one.

Confirmation Statement:

I am ready to become a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

When I was a baby, my Mom had me baptized in the Presbyterian religion. This made me a part of God's covenant and the church. She has always told me that a part of my baptism was her promising to our church family and to God that she was going to raise me in the Presbyterian faith and teach me about Christianity, faith and the bible. Part of this promise was also that

our church family would also help teach and nurture me in my faith. Our family has always gone to the same church until we came to Westminster and there are so many parts of our church family that have helped me to become the person that I am now.

Confirmation is my time to take responsibility for my Christian life and affirm my beliefs. I have things to learn. I want to learn more about the bible and other things. Learning never stops. I want to be a part of this church and continue to grow and learn about the church and about my faith and the role it will continue to have in my life.

I will attend worship services with my family. I think everyone learns differently so I am not sure what I will learn the most from or enjoy the most. The Mission Trip this summer I am looking forward to very much. It is important to give back and not only helping repair the homes and buildings in the community we are going to but also to give back by talking with the families and letting them know they are not alone. We can help them by showing them what faith is if they do not know. We can pray with them and help to keep their spirits up. Faith alone can be a powerful thing!

Volunteering is an important part of being a church member. I will look into the opportunities for this at Westminster and see what fits me. It is important to help others and there are many ways to do this. You can help with your time, help with raising money or help in other ways. One way that I can volunteer is to help work in the nursery. I can also try to find other ways to help. Our family has not been attending here for very long so I am not familiar with all the options but I look forward to finding my place at our new church!

Mia Grace Marcy

Baptized on July 17, 2005

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Mia's mentor is Meridith Bryans.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe that God is The Sculptor who forms each of us in a truly unique and special way. I also believe that He is the reason that we are who we are today. I believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born to a virgin, framed and victimized by Pontius Pilate, and died on a cross to save us from our sins.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is in all of us, an internal voice helping guide us along the paths that we take throughout our lives. I believe that we must be the best persons we can be by obeying the Ten Commandments and being faithful, and also by being grateful for Jesus's sacrifice for us. I believe that my church is my extended family that cares for me and nurtures me in my personal growth and development throughout my journey as a Christian. As a member of our church family, I will strive to reach out to others in our community, acting as advocate for kindness, respect, love, and acceptance.

It is my belief that these are meaningful and powerful elements of my Presbyterian faith.

Statement of Confirmation

I want to be confirmed because my Confirmation marks the official recognition of my active involvement in my church family. Similar to my baptism, my confirmation would help further define me as a Christian, and as a practicing member of the Presbyterian Church.

My participation in the church continues to range from activities I'm already involved in, such as helping take care of the babies and small children in the church nursery, volunteering to serve during church services, and helping organize and facilitate special events, such as meals, fundraisers, and celebrations. I am truly excited to be participating in this year's Mission Trip, and look forward to sharing with others my experiences, as well as to growing in my own faith, while serving others through God. While I am taking a break from volunteering for Vacation Bible School this season, I see myself contributing to that cause, again, in the future.

I'd also like to help create new opportunities to serve others in our community by highlighting local concerns and needs, and helping to orchestrate resource drives to assist others.

I believe that God's presence in my everyday life is demonstrated whenever I see unsolicited acts of kindness around me. When people help one another, individually, and with a group, I know that his Spirit is near. But right now, I feel like God's presence is most obvious to me through the seemingly effortless beauty of dance, the creative collaboration of music, the moving words of poetry, or in a beautiful and awe inspiring piece of visual art. Without His presence, none of these would be as powerful or meaningful, or be the types of things that connect cultures and generations to each other. My life, and all of our lives, will forever be enriched though our Lord's generosity and creativity.

Bryce Dean Pound

Baptized on August 28, 2005

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL

Bryce's mentor is Charlie King.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Jesus died on the cross so our sins can be forgiven. I believe in God the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit is always around us. Knowing that God is always with us helps me through everything I do because I know God will help me in times of need and know when I need help. God is my lord and savior. I may not fully understand how this is possible, but I believe in the trinity. This is Faith. As a Christian, God asks us to be kind and respectful to others. I try my best to be kind and respectful. This is similar to when God says in Matthew 22:39 "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Statement of Confirmation

I am joining this church to become closer to the members of not only Westminster Presbyterian Church but the whole Christian family, and God. The most important part of going through confirmation class is that I became much closer to God and learn so much about him. Another reason why I decided to join the church is because my family has a long line of Presbyterian heritage that dates back generations.

One way I intend to be active in the Church is by attending Youth Group every Sunday afternoon that I can. Another way I intend to be active is by attending mission trip every year. The last

and most important way I intend to be active is by attending and participating in Sunday morning church services.

A personal experience I had with God is when my grandma died of cancer. I knew God was present because I prayed that my grandma's suffering would end soon and she would go to heaven. I knew God was present because within a week she died and her suffering ended. Since God answered my prayers that my grandma's suffering ended and since she was such a nice lady, I knew God would answer my other prayers and she would go to heaven.



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