

Statement of Faith Stanley Howes

1 Faith is a very abstract concept. It is very difficult to label or define and it is very
2 hard to describe, since so many people describe faith so differently.

3 My statement of faith is very simple, yet very deeply rooted in my soul, my very
4 being.

5 I believe in the Holy Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Faith is grace, a gift that
6 none of us deserve, but yet God gives this gift freely.

7 My faith is that I am but a sinner, who has failed my Lord, yet God loves me. I
8 believe that through my faith Christ's death and resurrection is the victory of Jesus
9 Christ over sin and death through the power of God. And I also believe that my faith, my
10 belief in Jesus Christ, is the beginning of eternal life when this earthly life ends. I believe
11 that one day everyone will rise and the just will find a life with Christ and that the unjust
12 will face judgement.

13 I think a life of faith, or in faith, is rarely easy. Faith is believing in God when we
14 don't understand all that is going on around us or even in our own lives. My faith is that
15 I have a Savior whom I can turn to when I have no one else. My faith is the love of Jesus
16 Christ in my life.

17 I have seen and experienced God's work in my life, when in a time I did not know
18 or have any idea of what my life would be like. I have become the person I am through
19 the work of God in my life. What I have I owe only to God through the Son, Jesus Christ.

20 There is not a doubt in my faith that the church is the body of Christ. It is not just
21 a building with beautiful stained glass windows but it is a community of people united
22 by the Holy Spirit. It is a place where our faith and knowledge of our faith are
23 transmitted through learning, and where love, the forgiveness of sins and God's Word is
24 proclaimed through worship. It is also where hope is cultivated and shared by our caring
25 for others and our mission work.

26 I believe the Scriptures are the Word of God in written form and inspired by God.
27 By reading and studying the Scriptures it give us the wisdom of God and I believe a guide
28 for living our lives.

29 We have two sacraments in the Presbyterian Church, and they are: Baptism and
30 The Lord's Supper. Baptism is not dependent on us, it is all about God. It is an outward
31 sign of an inward grace. I believe in baptism because you become/or come into the
32 family of God and God's church, and it is up to the church family to help and nurture
33 those baptized at all times. The Lord's Supper is the breaking of bread (the body of
34 Christ) and the drinking of the wine/grape juice (representing the blood of Christ); it is
35 the gift of God's love. Through this sacrament we are reminded of the life and death of
36 Christ.

37 Through my study of the Scriptures, if I understand anything, it tells of the
38 second coming of Jesus Christ. He will come back in a blaze of glory to take over His
39 church and all the earth. The dead will be raised, all are judged, and creation is or will be
40 renewed.

41 I will continue my walk with my Father, with the help of His Son, Jesus Christ, and
42 with the Spirit of God in my heart.