

## **Biography: Bonnie S. Grabowski**

I was born in Central City, Nebraska into a multi-generational family of Presbyterians. All of my grandparents were members of First Presbyterian Church in Fullerton, Nebraska and my parents, after their marriage, continued to attend the same church. I was baptized as an infant and have been involved in the church almost continuously since.

My most recent career has been as Pharmacy Manager at North Kansas City Hospital, a position I have held for over twenty-five years. It is a great job, with the opportunity to work with many talented people and provide quality healthcare to patients. I am committed to being a life long student; and I love learning new things. My degrees include Chemistry with a minor in education, Pharmacy, an MBA and an M.Div.

Most of my life I have been active in the church. After moving to Kansas City in 1983, I became a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church and have been there ever since. At Northminster, I served as an elder and assisted with Christian Education. I have also participated in music ministries throughout my life. I have participated in Heartland Presbytery in several different capacities.

Wanting to be a better Christian Education teacher, I decided to take some classes at a seminary, choosing Central Baptist Seminary. This experience was transformative for me. While my purpose had been to become a more knowledgeable teacher, I felt a call to minister to others and to become a pastor. My experience has included an internship at Trinity Presbyterian Church, and serving as pulpit supply for First Presbyterian Church in Maryville, MO for almost two years.

I have been blessed with a wonderful husband, Michael. We will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. I also have three amazing children, Rebecca, Robert and Rachel.

## **Statement of Faith: Bonnie S. Grabowski**

I believe in God—one in three “persons,” Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

I believe that God is creator of all that is, seen and unseen. I believe that creation is good. I believe that God is far above and beyond anything we can think or imagine. God is love and deeply desires to be in relationship with all of God’s creation.

I believe in Jesus Christ as God with us, fully human and fully divine. Jesus Christ is the deepest expression of God’s desire to be with us and for us. I believe that Jesus died and was resurrected. In Christ the resurrection of God has triumphed over the powers of injustice, suffering and death.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the presence and work of the living God here and now. The Spirit is active in the entire world creating, loving, reconciling, forgiving, and making things new. I believe the Spirit works through our individual lives, through the church and in all of creation.

I believe in the Trinity, in that God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit can be understood no other way. I believe that all of God is involved in everything that God does.

I believe in the Holy Scripture. I believe Scripture is the inspired word of God, a record of God’s self revelation. I believe that Scripture provides authoritative guidance for living out one’s life of faith.

I believe in the Holy Sacraments of the church. I believe that Baptism is the outward demonstration of our incorporation into Christ. Jesus himself was baptized and he called on his followers to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . .” I believe in the Lord’s Supper as communion with God and as a sign of participation in the covenant community. Jesus instituted this Sacrament with his disciples before his death.

I believe that the church is the community of believers. Christ calls the church into being and is present with it in Spirit and in Word. The church is Christ’s, not ours. The purposes of the church are to proclaim the gospel for the salvation of all, to nurture and provide fellowship for God’s people, to participate in divine worship, keeping God foremost in our lives, and to witness to the Kingdom of God in the world.