

# JUSTIN L. ADDINGTON

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## STATEMENT OF FAITH

I was brought up in a religious household, with parents who took me to church every Sunday. From a young age, my parents made sure that I participated in Sunday School and Children's Choirs, which provided me with a solid faith foundation. My parents held leadership roles in the church and set forth a good example of service and stewardship. I was also blessed with two wonderful grandmothers, who modeled prayer, faith, and devotion in ways that still inform my life to this day. I cannot tell you the exact moment I became a Christian. I will admit to responding to altar calls at several retreats and revivals, but I cannot definitively say that I was saved on a particular date. Rather, I believe that God is saving me anew every day.

I am a life-long United Methodist, and as a result, the teachings of John Wesley hold a special place in my heart. I am a firm believer in Wesley's simple rule, which states, "Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God." This simple truth guides me in all that I do, and is a true summation of the Gospel in my opinion. I am also guided by Wesley's Quadrilateral, which encourages the believer to view faith through the lenses of Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. I believe that these elements work together in the faith life of an individual to form and inform what they do and how they live. Finally, the Wesley theology of grace is one to which I hold fast. Knowing that God's grace was there for me before I was born, that God's grace is present with me now, and that God's grace goes ever before me, brings me comfort and hope.

Music plays a large role in my my faith life. I served as an acolyte as a child, sitting beside the organist each Sunday. That is where my love of music and liturgy began. By the time I was a teenager, I was playing for worship services, and setting out on a clear path to be a church musician. Music is a medium through which I can clearly express my faith, and musical texts are a means through which I make strong connections with God's word. Music has drawn me closer to God, and has provided me with strength and support during some of life's most difficult times. Also, the disciplines of music have positively inspired a sense of excellence and obedience in my private devotional life. Music is a gift from God, and I strive to use my music for God's glory.

The ultimate fixture of my faith is a strong and firm belief in Jesus Christ. I believe that the incarnation of Jesus was a way for God to become more intimate with his beloved creation, and I believe that Christ came to show us how to live and how to love. My belief in Jesus and my reliance on his teachings radically influence the way I view issues of social justice, especially when it comes to our responsibility to the poor and the oppressed. I believe in being a good steward of God's creation, and I believe in ecumenical and respectful dialogue between all denominations and religions. My faith in Christ does not shut doors, but rather opens them so that my life may show forth God's love in all I say and do.