

## **Biography: Amy Ramirez-Spears**

A lifelong resident of KCK, I was born Amy Camille Spears to my parents Michael and Rhonda Spears. Grandview Park Presbyterian Church is my childhood church home having attended it actively from the time I was very young until now.

I was homeschooled as a child through high school. It was a wonderful experience that taught me discipline, initiative, service in local organizations, and an understanding of those on the margins that we are called, in Christ, to lift up.

I attended Rockhurst University and KU Medical Center for an undergraduate and graduate level education in biology and physiology, respectively. Hearing God's call, I left KU Med and attended Central Baptist Theological Seminary for my M. Div. and preparation for ministry.

As a youth, I served as an elder, a deacon and attended Presbytery youth activities. I loved serving and sharing God's love with others. Both attending Triennium and working with the neighborhood youth at my church were amazing blessings. Each of the experiences of my youth later served to inform and aid in the discernment of my call.

I am joined in life by my husband, Jon Ramirez. Jon entered the US as a legal permanent resident in March 2009 after three years of struggle through the US immigration system. We are overjoyed that he is finally here.

Currently, I teach high school chemistry and physics, read voraciously, write incessantly, and swim laps. When the weather warms, the bike and running shoes come out and I hit the road as much as possible.

## **Statement of Faith: Amy Ramirez-Spears**

I believe that we, as human beings, created in the image of God, belong to God, we are created by God, special and unique, to be in relationship with God, each one members of the family of God, and caretakers to all creation. In sin, we broke that relationship, we fell away from our creator, we doubted, we disobeyed, we hated, but God in God's eternal mercy held us close to God's heart. God then sent us Christ, whose life, death and resurrection broke the barrier of sin and in the salvation offered on the cross, restored our relationship with God, restored our hope, our faith and our love.

I believe in the Triune God, in God the Creator, who in love couldn't help but create life. God, as the source of all life, is omnipresent and all-powerful yet is in relationship with creation, therefore God responds to creation in dynamic, vital ways.

I believe in the Triune God, in Christ the Redeemer of the Universe and all of life within. Christ the living, breathing word of God, the Son of God, was sent by God to show us the way to live in God. In Christ's death, we have given up our sins for Christ to bear on the cross, for Christ has suffered as sacrifice for us. Christ was then raised up to life from the dead, so that we may once again live in full, whole relationship with our God.

I believe and trust in the Sustainer, the Holy Spirit. The Spirit moves among us, sustaining, renewing, and binding all of life together, justifying us by grace through faith, and binding all of God's children together in acceptance, love, and unity into the one body of Christ, the community that God has created us to live in relationship with God. Through the Spirit we are given the strength to share and spread God's mercy, justice and kindness in a sin-full, broken world.

In baptism and the Lord's Supper we see God at work sealing us in redemption and assuring us of his grace. There is only one baptism in which we are engrafted into the body of Christ, the church, and become God's. Baptism marks us as God's own.

At the table of the Lord's Supper, we gather as a community in communion with all believers and with Christ to take part in the sharing of the bread and wine as Christ commanded, to remember, be spiritually nourished and grow in grace.

As God has created us to be in relationship with God and each other I believe that our faith and our souls are nurtured and sown best within the context of the faith community. With brothers and sisters at our side to hold us accountable we can grow as God's creations, reading, studying, learning God's Word, worshipping, singing, sharing, and serving together as God's family, the church.

The church, our faith community has purpose and meaning in our lives. With Christ at the head of the church the people are charged by God to proclaim the good news of salvation, nurture on another in fellowship, and worship God with every breath, every act, showing mercy, love, and justice to each other and to the suffering, silence, and lost. The church is also called to serve as a conduit for hope and justice. The church, called to mercy and compassion is to seek justice in all its actions and with the

collective voice of its people to call on leaders and systems of our world to stop injustice and instead seek the well-being of all of God's people. We are the voice for the voice-less.

Out of the experience and knowledge of our salvation and freedom through Christ, learned in the context of our faith communities, we can live as whole beings created in perfect love and responding in pure love to the God who will never forget or betray us.

In this pure love of God, the freedom through Christ and the empowerment by the Spirit, I will serve my Lord in every way from the phenomenal to the menial of life's many tasks. For my God is my Guide, my Friend, my Personal Salvation and Source of all Life, Love, Beauty and Creativity. God's love is with me and with each one of us; nothing can separate us from that love.

It is my hope and prayer that God's light and love has been shown through this statement of faith.