

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"Basic Christian Affirmations" (Taken from: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* - 2016, Paragraph 102)

**All: With Christians of other communions we confess belief in the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

One: This confession embraces the biblical witness to God's activity in creation, encompasses God's gracious self-involvement in the dramas of history, and anticipates the consummation of God's reign. The created order is designed for the well-being of all creatures and as the place of human dwelling in covenant with God. As sinful creatures, however, we have broken that covenant, become estranged from God, wounded ourselves and one another, and wreaked havoc throughout the natural order. We stand in need of redemption.

**All: We hold in common with all Christians a faith in the mystery of salvation in and through Jesus Christ.**

One: We share the Christian belief that God's redemptive love is realized in human life by the activity of the Holy Spirit, both in personal experience and in the community of believers. This community is the church, which the Spirit has brought into existence for the healing of the nations.

**All: We understand ourselves to be part of Christ's universal church when by adoration, proclamation, and service we become conformed to Christ.**

One: We are initiated and incorporated into this community of faith by baptism, receiving the promise of the Spirit that re-creates and transforms us. Through the regular celebration of Holy Communion, we participate in the risen presence of Jesus Christ and are thereby nourished for faithful discipleship. We pray and work for the coming of God's realm and reign to the world and rejoice in the promise of everlasting life that overcomes death and the forces of evil.

**All: With other Christians, we recognize that the reign of God is both a present and future reality.**

One: The church is called to be that place where the first signs of the reign of God are identified and acknowledged in the world. Wherever persons are being made new creatures in Christ, wherever the insights and resources of the gospel are brought to bear on the life of the world, God's reign is already effective in its healing and renewing power. We also look to the end time in which God's work will be fulfilled. This prospect gives us hope in our present actions as individuals and as the Church. This expectation saves us from resignation and motivates our continuing witness and service.

**All: We share with many Christian communions a recognition of the authority of Scripture in matters of faith, the confession that our justification as sinners is by grace through faith, and the sober realization that the church is in need of continual reformation and renewal.**

One: We affirm the general ministry of all baptized Christians who share responsibility for building up the church and reaching out in mission and service to the world.