

CORE BELIEFS OF THE SIDNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REVISED 3-10-22

1. The Triune God.

God is one God who exist eternally in three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God is both Holy and Loving

2. Authority of Scripture.

The Bible is God's word revealed without error to human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible reveals all that is necessary for salvation.

The Bible is the final authority for determining all Christian beliefs, values, and morals.

3. Salvation for all by God's Grace.

All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory and are in need of salvation.

Humans are helpless to achieve salvation by self-improvement or good works.

We are saved by faith in the work of Jesus Christ who loves us and offers this by grace.

Salvation is offered to all.

Through salvation, we can have a relationship with God that leads to holy living and eternal life.

4. Sacraments.

We recognize two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

Both Baptism and Communion are means of grace in which we experience the presence and power of God's grace.

Baptism is taught by Jesus as a part of our ministry into the world, (Matthew 28:19).

Through Baptism God initiates a covenant with individuals, people become a part of the Church, and individuals accept the responsibility to live a "New Life" of love and service to all.

We are called to repeat Holy Communion by Jesus on the last night before his death, (Luke 22:19).

We believe that the elements are symbols of the body (bread) and blood (wine) of Jesus.

We believe the communion table should be open to all who confess their sins and wish to walk in a relationship with Jesus and since it is a means of grace we should meet at his table as often as we can.

5. Prayer.

Prayer is the chief means of communicating with God and an essential part of our relationship with God and our spiritual journey.

Prayer is the means we have of inviting God's rule in our life and the life of others.

Praying for one another is a form of love and unleashes the power of God in their lives.

6. Love.

The great commandments (Matthew 22:37-39) demand that we express our faith through love of God and one another.

All relationships, both inside the church and outside the church, should be steeped in love.

7. Discipleship.

The great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) calls us to go into the world for the purpose of making disciples by proclaiming Jesus as Savior and teaching all Jesus commanded.

We are called to transform the world.

We are called to serve not be served. We believe we do that best by using our spiritual gifts.

Following Jesus, (discipleship) is a lifelong pursuit of ever-increasing intimacy with Jesus, surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit daily.