



2 N. Laws St.
Bridgeville, DE 19933

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe

Union Methodist Church of Bridgeville, Delaware

Holy Scripture - We believe that Almighty God has revealed all that is necessary to life and salvation ([2 Tim 3:15-17](#)) in the sixty-six books of Holy Scripture, which alone are the Word of God.

All Scripture was given by verbal plenary (in all of its very words in the original) inspiration of God ([2 Tim 3:16](#)), is infallible and inerrant and sufficient ([Ps 19:7-8](#)) for all of life and godliness ([2 Pet 1:3](#)), and is the final arbiter in all disputes ([Acts 17:11](#); [Isa 8:20](#)).

Authority of Scripture - Its authority is derived from its Author, God, through His Holy Spirit and not from the opinions of men ([2 Pet 1:20-21](#), [Matt 12:1-12](#)).

Our Hermeneutic - Scripture is to be interpreted according to normal literal, historical, grammatical hermeneutics (interpretation) within its contexts ([Isa 28:9-10](#); [Neh 8:7-8](#); [Mt 19:3-6](#), [22:29-32](#), [2 Pet 3:16-17](#)).

God and the Trinity - We believe in the one true and living God ([Jn 17:3](#)), eternally existing in three persons (co-equal in power and glory yet distinct: ([Jn 17:1](#), [1:1-3](#), [14](#), [18](#); [10:30](#), [14:9-11](#), [16](#), [26](#)): the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ([Matt 28:19-20](#); [3:16-17](#)), who is invisible, personal, omnipresent (all-present), eternal, dependent on none, unchanging, truthful, trustworthy, almighty, sovereign, omniscient (knowing all things), righteous, holy, good, loving, merciful, long-suffering and gracious ([1 Tim 1:17](#), Ps 145).

Jesus Christ - We believe that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world ([John 3:16-17](#)), conceived of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit ([Luke 1:34-35](#); [Gal 4:4a](#)), unchangeably sinless ([Heb 4:15](#); [1 Pet 2:22](#)), both God ([John 1:1](#), [14](#), [10:30](#); [Col 1:19](#)) and man ([1 Tim 2:5](#); [Phil 2:7-8](#)),

born under the law ([Gal 4:4b](#)), to live a perfect life of righteousness on behalf of His elect people ([Matt 3:15](#), [5:17](#); [Rom 3:21-26](#), [10:4](#); [2 Cor 5:21](#); [Heb 7:26-28](#)), that He died a sacrificial death for our sins, and that He rose bodily from the dead. (John 1:1-2, 14, 18; Heb 1:8, Isa 7:14; 9:6).

Basis For Salvation - We believe man was created innocent, but in sinning he brought spiritual and physical death to himself and all his descendants. We believe the only condition for receiving everlasting life is faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died a substitutionary death on the cross for the sins of the whole world and rose bodily from the grave. No act of obedience, such as commitment to obey, sorrow for sin, turning from one's sin, baptism, or submission to the Lordship of Christ, may be added to, or considered part of, faith as a condition for receiving eternal life. This saving transaction between God and the sinner is simply the giving and receiving of a free gift.

(Rom 3:23; 4:5; 5:12; Gen 1:26-27; John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Gal 2:16; Titus 3:5; Eph 2:8-9; Rev 22:17).

The Ascension of Christ - We believe God's Son ascended to the right hand of His Father and is enthroned in glory, where He intercedes on behalf of His people and rules over all things for their sake ([Rom 8:33-34](#); [Heb 7:25](#), [12:2](#)).

Church Ordinances - We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances (instituted by Jesus in the gospels; ([Matt 26:26-28](#), [28:19](#); [1 Cor 11:23-26](#))).

Eschatology - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again to raise the dead bodily, both righteous and unrighteous, and that the righteous shall enjoy everlasting life and the wicked endure everlasting conscious punishment ([Matthew 13:41-50](#), [25:41-46](#); [Lk 16:23-28](#); [2 Thess 1:9](#); Rev 20). It is our belief that God has a future for Israel and the nations (Rom 11) and that the return of Christ will be followed by His earthly reign as described in the prophets (Zech 14, Rev 20-22). For us, full agreement on some of the finer points of doctrine (ex: timing of rapture or exact nature of the millennium/kingdom after Christ returns, ([2 Pet 3:11-18](#))) are not requirements for membership, fellowship, leadership, or ministry partnerships with others who share our high view of God, His Word, and the gospel, and who agree not to be divisive or to speak or teach here contrary to our doctrinal convictions ([2 Cor 13:11](#); [Phil 2:1-2](#); [1 Pet 3:8](#); [Eph 4:2-7](#)).

What We Teach on Marriage, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life

- We teach the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman, as created by God, in a single, exclusive union ([Matt. 19:4-9](#)), in a public, formal and officially recognized covenant ([Mal. 2:14](#), [Prov. 2:17](#)), to picture Christ and His bride, the church ([Eph. 5:22-33](#)).
- We teach God designed sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other ([Heb. 13:4](#)), and that departures from God's design are sinful, including adultery, fornication, homosexual or bisexual or transsexual conduct, incest, pornography, etc. ([1 Thess 4:3-8](#); [Matt. 5:28](#); [Rom. 1:24-32](#); [1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9-10](#); [Lev. 18:1-30](#); [Deut. 22:5](#)).
- We teach while these and other sins are offensive to God, there is redemption and forgiveness through Jesus Christ for all who confess and forsake their sin to follow Christ.
- We teach every forgiven sinner "in Christ" is a "new creation" ([1 Cor. 6:9-11](#); [2 Cor. 5:17](#); [Acts 3:19-20](#); [Pr. 28:13](#); [Ps. 103:3, 12](#); [Col. 2:13-14, 3:5-10](#)).
- We teach that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary sexes/genders together reflect the image and nature of God, and this biblical and biological design is not to be rejected ([Gen. 1:26-27](#)).
- We teach the dignity and sanctity of all human life, including the pre-born, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death ([Gen. 9:6](#); [Ps. 139:13-16](#)).
- We teach every person as created in God's image must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity, and we teach that abuse, hate or harassment of individuals is to be repudiated as contrary to Scripture ([Jas. 3:9-10, 2:8-9](#)).
- We teach that the faithful proclamation of the Scripture, including the call to repentance for sin, does not constitute hate speech, or hateful and harassing behavior, but is instead a fundamental part of our loving mission to the world ([Lev. 19:17-18](#); [Matt. 28:16-20](#); [Acts 20:27](#); [2 Cor. 5:11-20](#); [2 Tim. 4:1-2](#)).