

UNITED METHODISTS BELIEVE



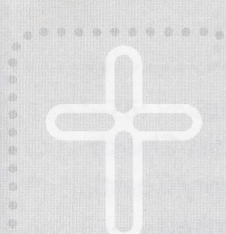
WE BELIEVE that **God** is understood in three distinct forms. *Father, Son and Holy Spirit* are commonly used to refer to the threefold nature of God. Sometimes we use other terms, such as *Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer*.



WE BELIEVE in **one God**, who created the world and all that is in it. We believe that God is *sovereign*; that is, God is *the ruler of the universe*. We believe that God is *loving*. We can experience God's *love and grace*.



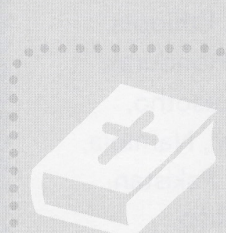
WE BELIEVE that **Jesus** was *human*. He lived as a man and died when he was *crucified*. We believe that Jesus is *divine*. He is the *Son of God*. We believe that *God raised Jesus from the dead* and that *the risen Christ lives today*. We believe that Jesus is *our Savior*. In Christ we receive *abundant life and forgiveness of sins*. We believe that Jesus is *our Lord* and that we are *called* to pattern our lives after his.



WE BELIEVE that the **Holy Spirit** is *God with us*. We believe that the Holy Spirit *comforts us when we are in need and convicts us when we stray from God*. We believe that the Holy Spirit *awakens us to God's will and empowers us to live obediently*.



WE BELIEVE that God created human beings **in God's image**. We believe that humans can *choose to accept or reject a relationship with God*. We believe that *all humans need to be in relationship with God in order to be fully human*.



WE BELIEVE that the **church** is *the body of Christ*, an extension of Christ's life and ministry in the world today. We believe that the mission of the church is *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. We believe that the church is *"the communion of saints,"* a community made up of all past, present and future disciples of Christ. We believe that the church is called *to worship God and to support those who participate in its life as they grow in faith*.

WE BELIEVE that the **Bible** is *God's Word*. We believe that the Bible is *the primary authority for our faith and practice*. We believe that Christians *need to know and study* the Old Testament and the New Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Scriptures)

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