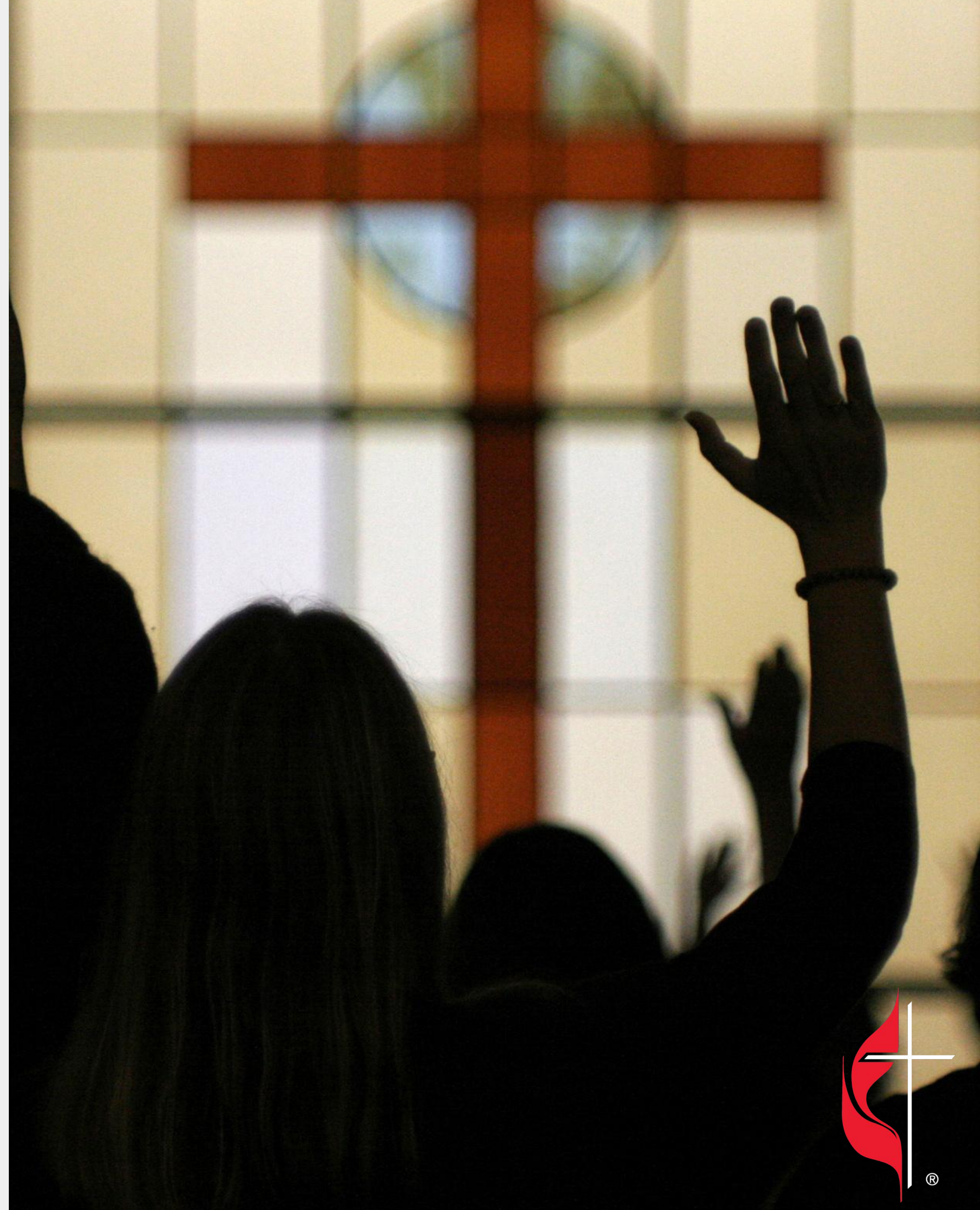


What does The UMC believe?*

*The 2016 Book of Discipline, originally from Wesley's Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church, which was printed in 1808. The first restrictive rule took effect 214 years ago.



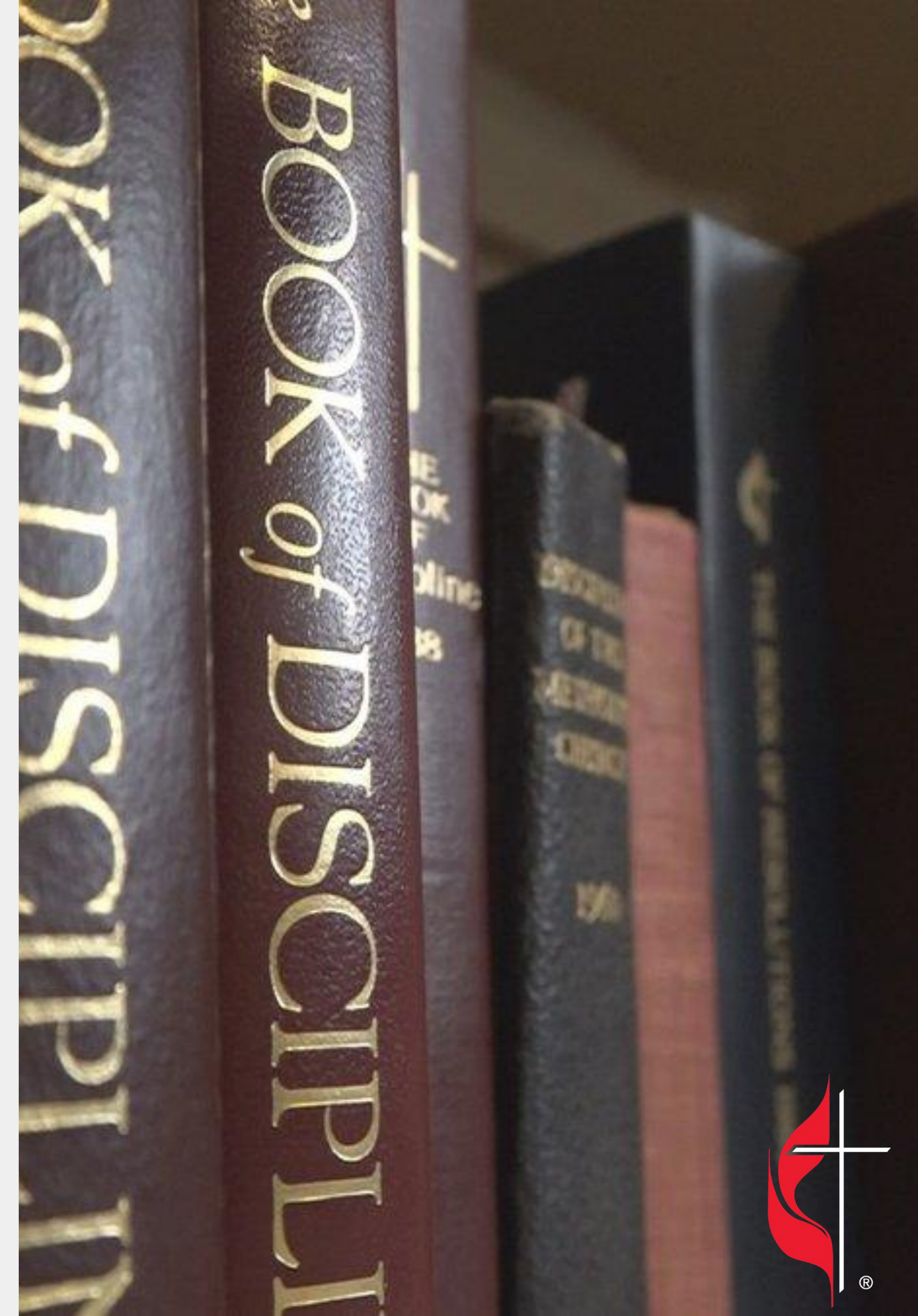
WHAT DOES THE UMC BELIEVE?

**United Methodists believe in the
Triune God —
Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

- One loving and true God of infinite power, wisdom and goodness
- God in three persons
 - Father
 - Son
 - Holy Ghost

**Articles of Religion, Article I
Confession of Faith, Article I**

Book of Discipline 2016, ¶ 104

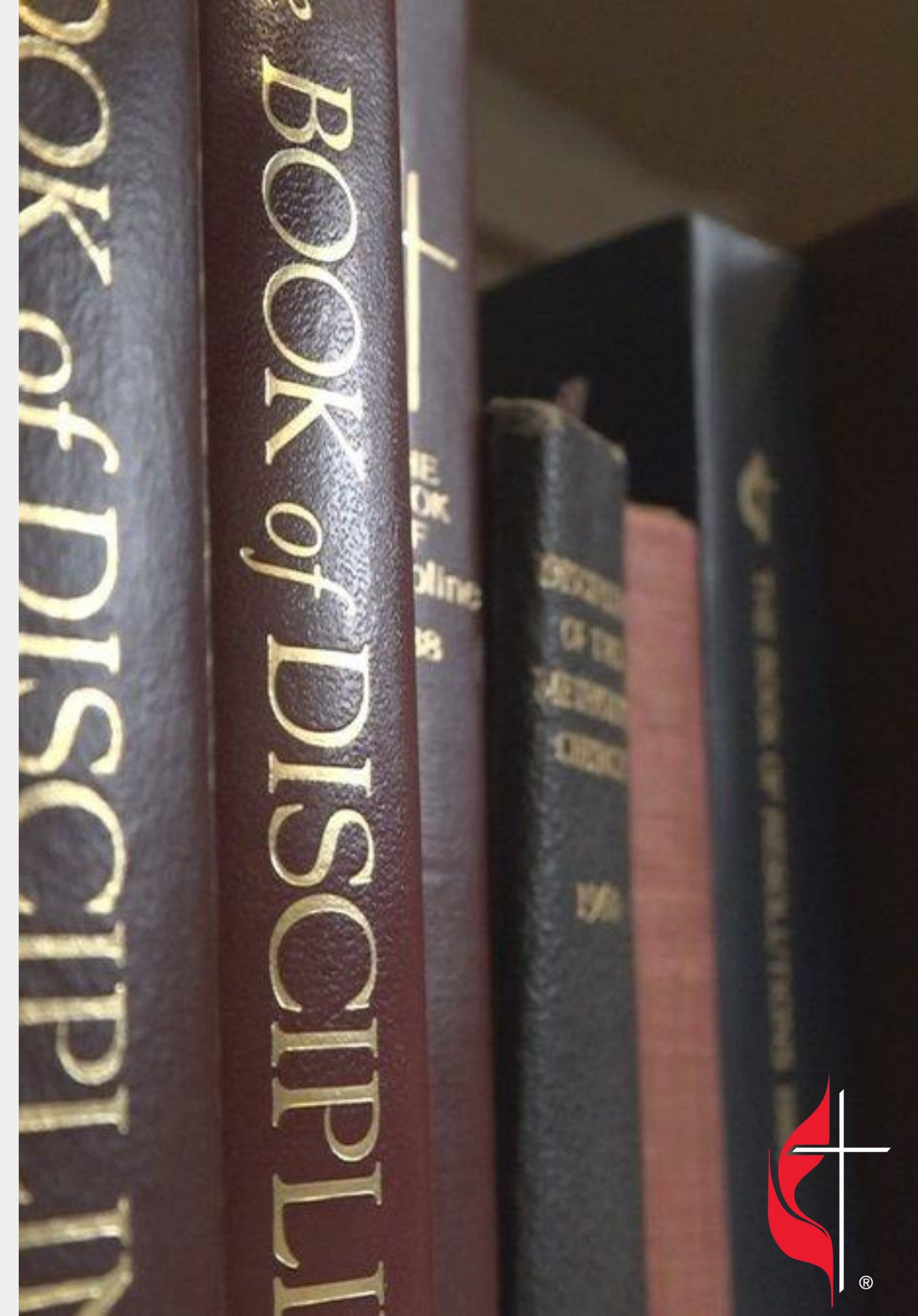


WHAT DOES THE UMC BELIEVE?

United Methodists believe in the full humanity and divinity of Christ and his virgin birth

- Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Word of the Father, fully human and fully divine
- The Son of God became fully human in the womb of the Virgin Mary
- Jesus Christ suffered, died, was buried and was raised from the dead to free us from the power of sin

**Articles of Religion, Article II
Confession of Faith, Article II**

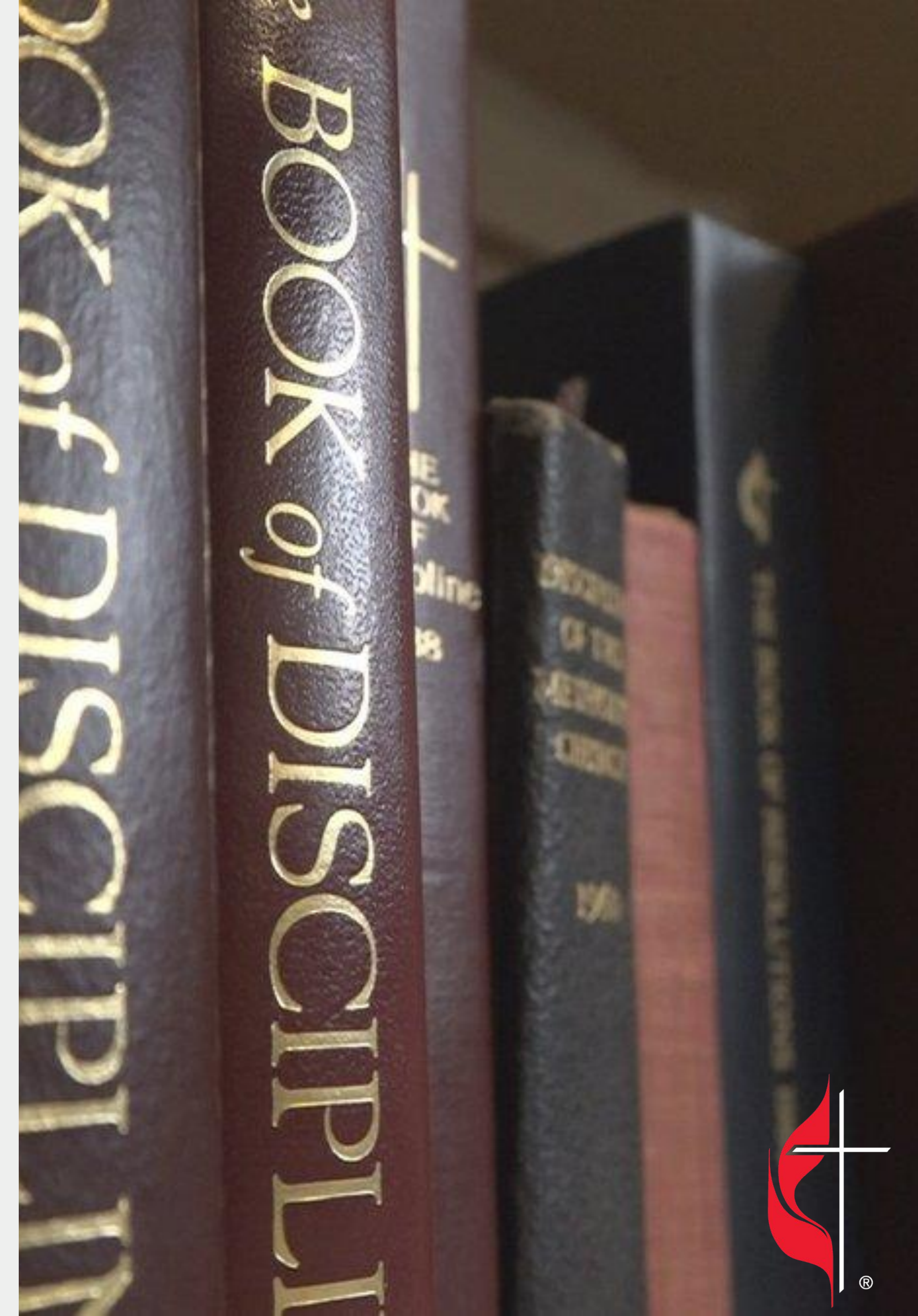


WHAT DOES THE UMC BELIEVE?

United Methodists believe Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven

- Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven
- He will return to judge the living and the dead

**Articles of Religion, Article III
Confession of Faith, Article II**

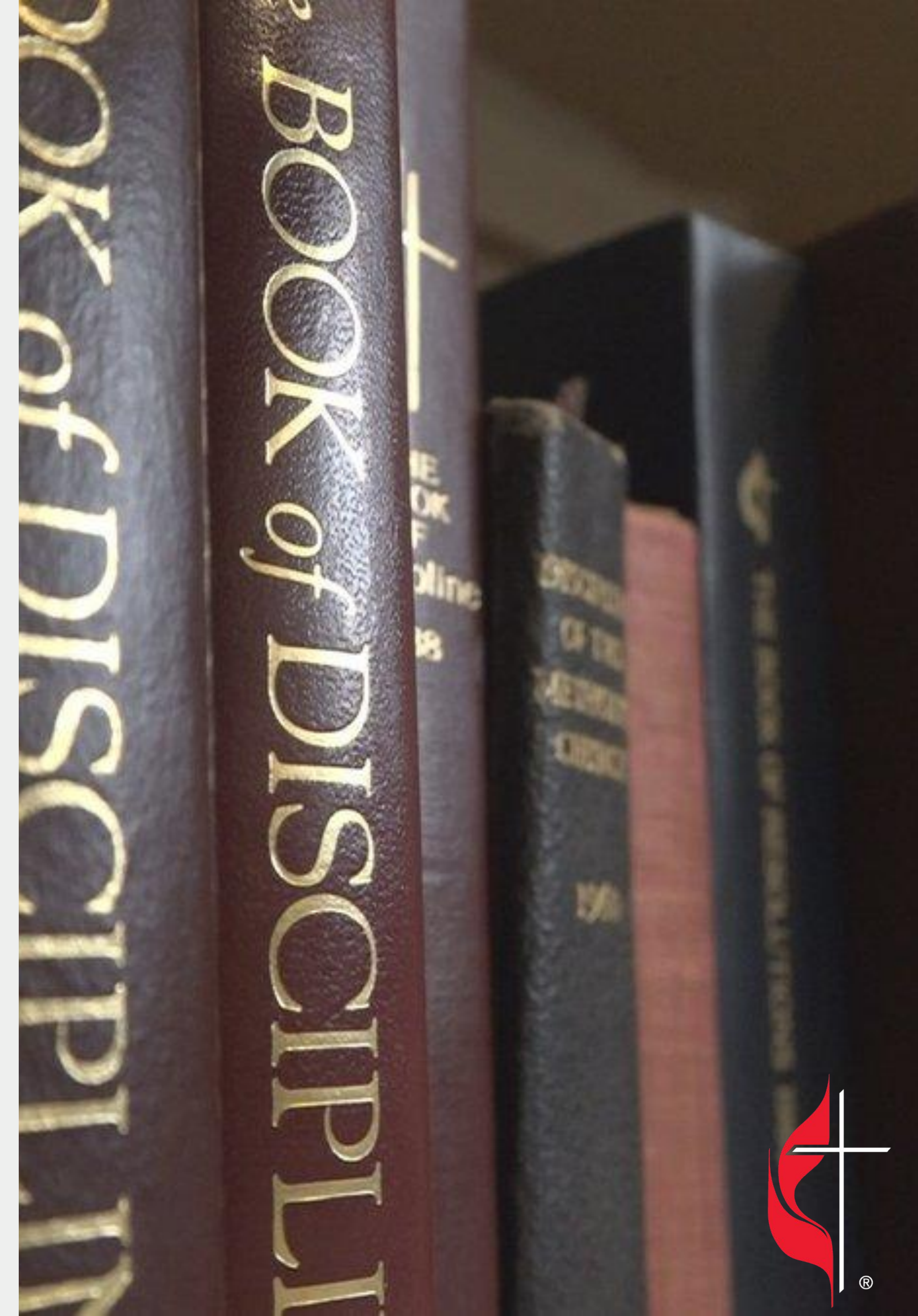


WHAT DOES THE UMC BELIEVE?

United Methodists believe in the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is fully God and proceeds from the Father and the Son

**Articles of Religion, Article IV
Confession of Faith, Article III**

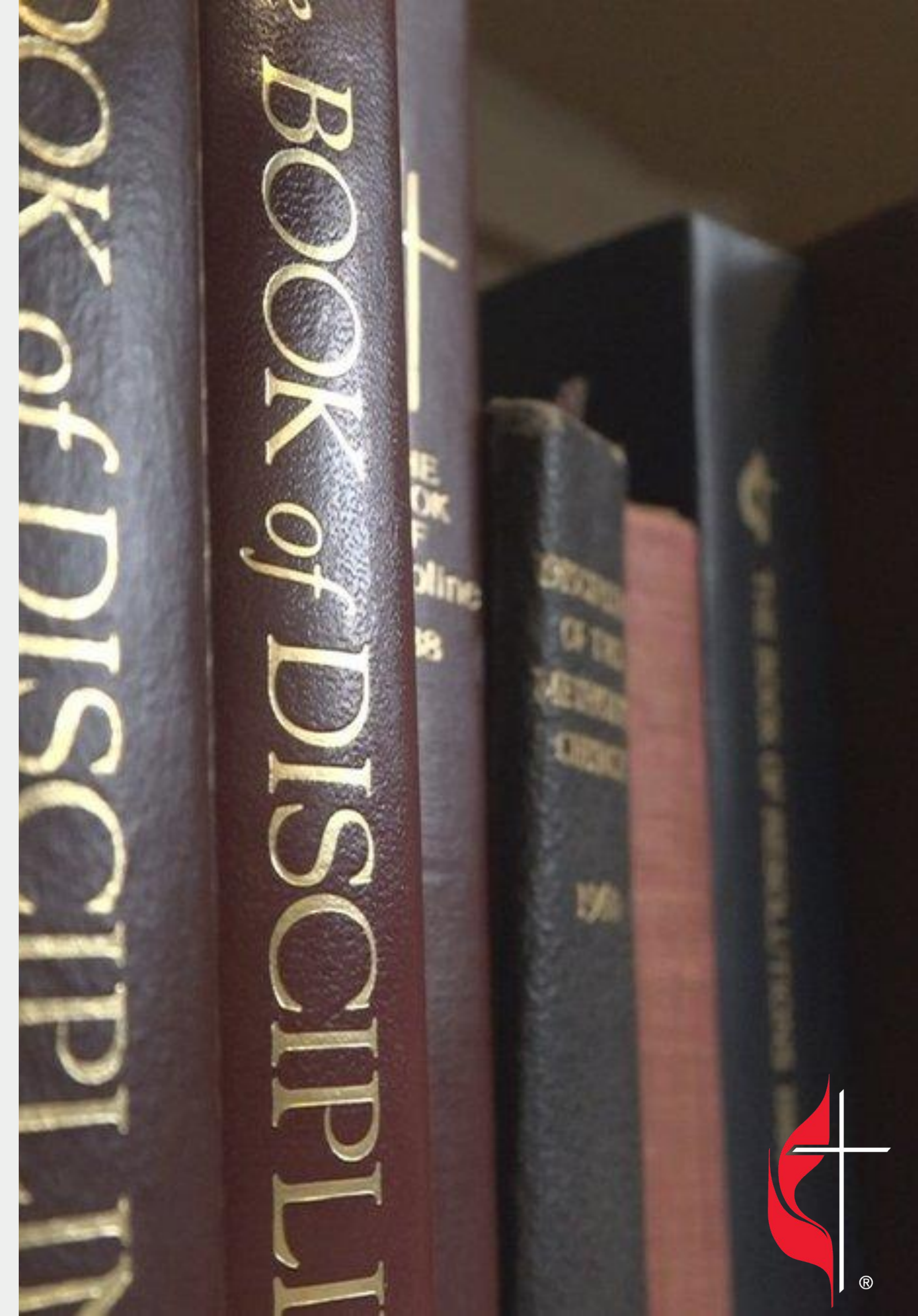


WHAT DOES THE UMC BELIEVE?

United Methodists believe the Bible
“contains all things necessary”

- The Bible contains all things necessary for salvation

Articles of Religion, Article V
Confession of Faith, Article IV



Our foundational beliefs cannot change

THE RESTRICTIVE RULES OF THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE STATE:

¶ 17. Article I. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion or establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

¶ 18. Article II. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Confession of Faith.

¶ 21. Article V. The General Conference shall not revoke or change the General Rules of Our United Societies.



Our Structure - Democracy and Representation

- The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the General Conference, the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council. These entities are established by our Constitution to be part of our structure. Each plays a significant role in the life of the church and provides checks and balances on the others.
- The primary body of The United Methodist Church is the Annual Conference. Every church is represented in its governance.
- All of our governing bodies are designed to ensure maximum involvement and representation from throughout the United States and the worldwide connection.





The church of yesterday, today and tomorrow

- The UMC continues to be a thriving denomination making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- The Constitution of The United Methodist Church protects both the Articles of Religion and the Confession of Faith as doctrinal standards that shall not be revoked, altered, or changed.
- To change the Constitution requires a supermajority of the General Conference and supermajority of the Annual and Central Conferences of The UMC.



The Apostles Creed

The Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith remain our foundation. The Apostles Creed expresses many of these commitments.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

