

## **A SUMMARY OF WESLEYAN BELIEFS<sup>i</sup>**

### **SUMMARY**

Wesleyans believe in one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Savior of all persons who put their faith in Him alone for eternal life. We believe those who receive new life in Christ are called to be holy in character and conduct, and can only live this way by being filled with the Lord's Spirit. We believe in the Bible and seek to establish our faith and actions on its teachings. We believe God wants people everywhere to know Him and that the purpose of the church is to tell the world about Christ through its worship, witness, and loving deeds.

### **ARTICLES OF RELIGION**

#### **Faith in the Holy Trinity**

We believe in the one living and true God who is both holy and loving. He created and preserves everything, lives eternally and His power, wisdom, and goodness are without limits. We believe in the Trinity; within the divine unity are three co-equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Though three persons, they are one in nature, power and eternity.<sup>ii</sup>

#### **The Father**

We believe that God the Father is the Source of everything that exists, whether matter or spirit. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Father made humanity, male and female, in His image. He relates to people as Father, showing how much He loves them. Because of this love, God both seeks and receives people who repent of their sins.<sup>iii</sup>

#### **The Son of God**

We believe in Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of God. The Holy Spirit conceived Him and the Virgin Mary gave Him birth, thus, He is both fully God and fully human. He died on the cross and was buried to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for all human transgressions, making those who trust in his atoning death right with God. Christ rose from the dead in His physical body and ascended into heaven where He occupies a place of honor and intercedes for us. One day He will return to earth to judge every person, living and dead.<sup>iv</sup>

#### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who has been sent to us by the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit has the same nature, majesty, and glory as the Father and the Son. He is and always will be truly God. It is through the Spirit that we come to experience God's grace. He points out sin and brings new birth to believers. He sets us apart to belong completely to God and actually changes our nature to be like God's. When we die, our glorification will be the Spirit's doing as well. He is always everywhere, assuring, preserving, guiding, and enabling the believer.<sup>v</sup>

#### **The Sufficiency and Full Authority of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation**

We believe that the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments form the entirety of Holy Scripture. They are the inspired and infallibly written Word of God. In their original