



This We Believe



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Preface



Years ago, most sailors believed the world was flat and stayed close to shore for fear of plunging over the edge of the earth. Others, however, believed the world was round and set out on adventures of new discovery. Beliefs influence people profoundly.

Doctrines are carefully-written statements describing what a group believes and teaches as truth. The Wesleyan Church has developed twenty-one doctrinal statements, which we call our Articles of Religion. Each is rooted in Scripture and in historic Christian thinking.

Many of our statements are patterned after John Wesley's condensation of the Church of England's thirty-nine doctrinal statements, which emphasized his—and our—belief in the transforming power of God's amazing grace. Early American Methodists made further adaptations, as did the leaders of the Holiness Movement in the nineteenth century, both of which gave rise to today's Wesleyan Church. Our article on sanctification was the first official statement of this biblical teaching ever adopted by a denomination.

Doctrines help us hold one another accountable as members of a community of faith. As you read this booklet, may you find greater assurance of your faith. May you also feel prompted to go deeper in your study of God's Word to be sure it is the foundation for your own beliefs and behavior.

—Jerry G. Pence, General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church