

The members, local churches, associations, conferences, General Synod, and national instrumentalities are free in relation to the world. We affirm that the authority of God is revealed in Jesus Christ, and is interpreted with the aid of the Holy Spirit as our constant guide. And we recognize our calling both as individuals and as the church to live in the world:

- ✦ Ministering to its needs
- ✦ Contribution to the welfare of all
- ✦ Being enriched by those aspects of culture that help to make human life more human
- ✦ Working through institutions and supporting laws that reflect God's just and loving purposes for the world
- ✦ Seeking justice and liberation for all

This is the ongoing challenge of the United Church of Christ. We hope you are intrigued by who we are and what we believe enough to want to know more. Remember, you are always welcome at Mission Hills United Church of Christ.



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Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat as his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust your forgiveness of sin and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Approved by the Executive Council in 1981 for use in the United Church of Christ 25th anniversary and affirmed by the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ.



Who We Are What We Believe

God is still speaking

Sunday Worship
10:00 am

www.missionhillsucc.org

Who We Are

Founded in 1911, **Mission Hills United Church of Christ** is about to enter into a season of celebration in recognition of our 100th Anniversary. We are a congregation of the United Church of Christ whose heritage dates back to the Pilgrims who made their way to this country seeking religious freedom and the ability to self-govern within each congregation. Religious freedom, questioning faith, spiritual inquiry, continuing progressive interpretation of the scriptures, and inclusive fellowship are all hallmarks of our congregation. We welcome all people to join us for worship and fellowship. As our by-line states, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

We worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Child care is provided at each of our services. A variety of educational programs are available for adults and Sunday school is offered to children during morning worship. We are located on the corner of Fort Stockton Drive and Jackdaw Street in Mission Hills – San Diego, 92103. You can contact us on the web at www.missionhillsucc.org or by calling 619.296.2169.

In addition to worship and fellowship, we are a mission oriented congregation. Our hope is to leave the world a better place than when we arrived. Feeding America, El Nido shelter for abused women and children, Esperanza building projects in Tijuana, Special Delivery food service for those living with HIV/AIDS and cancer are just a few of the ongoing mission outreach efforts. We believe it is important to say what we believe and also to live it through our actions.



We are an "Open and Affirming" congregation which means we welcome everyone seeking a spiritual home with a special outreach to LGBT persons. You will find that ours is a safe place to learn, to question, and to grow. As

an ONA congregation we insist that LGBT people are equal with all others and are full participants in the work and worshipping life of the church.

We are a multi-generational, multi-racial, multi-cultural congregation. Our pews are filled with a diverse group each espousing varying theological and ideological perspectives. In addition, ours is a child-friendly congregation. Children are not only welcome here but are encouraged to participate in the worship and educational aspects of our community life. It is not uncommon for at least 25 children to come running forward for "their time of the worship service" when the pastor offers a children's message specifically designed for them

We hope you will join us as we journey together seeking wholeness and spiritual fulfillment.

What We Believe

- **That they may all be one** (John 17:21). This motto of the United Church of Christ reflects the spirit of unity on which the church is based and points toward future efforts to heal divisions in the body of Christ. We are a uniting as well as a united church.



- **In essentials unity, in nonessentials diversity, in all things charity.** The unity that we seek requires neither an uncritical acceptance of any point of view nor a rigid formulation of doctrine. It does require mutual understanding and agreement as to which aspects of the Christian faith are essential.

The unity of the church is not of its own making. It is a gift of God. But expressions of that unity are as diverse as there are individuals. The common thread that runs through all is love.

- **Testimonies of faith rather than tests of faith.** Because faith can be expressed in many different ways, the United Church of Christ has no formula that is a test of faith. Down through the centuries, however, Christians have shared their faith with one another through creeds, confessions, catechisms, and other statements of faith.

In 1959, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a statement of faith prepared especially for the United Church. Since that time a number of revisions have been made until the one most widely used now, the doxological version. It is a beautiful way to state tenants of one's faith rather than requirements for acceptance into the faith. Our Statement of Faith is printed in this brochure.

- **There is more light and truth to break forth from God's Holy Word.** This classic statement assumes the primacy of the Bible as our source for understanding the good news as foundational for all statements of faith. It recognizes that the Bible, though written in specific historical times and places, still speaks to us in our present condition because God is a still speaking God. It declares that the study of the Scripture is not limited by past interpretations but is to be pursued with expectancy for new insights and help for living today.

- **The priesthood of all believers.** All members of the United Church of Christ are called to minister to others and to participate as equals in the common worship of God, each with direct access to the mercies of God through personal prayer and devotion.

Recognition is given to those among us who have received special training such as pastors, teachers, and administrators, but we believe each participant has a vital role to play in all aspects of congregational life.

- **Responsible freedom.** As individual members, we are free to believe and act in accordance with our perception of God's will for our lives. But we are called to live in loving covenantal relationship with one another – gathering in communities of faith, congregations of believers, and local churches.

Each congregation or local church is free to act in accordance with the collective decisions of its members, guided by the working of the Spirit in the light of the Scriptures. But it is also called to live in covenantal relationship with other congregations sharing of insights and for cooperative action.