

## Theological Assumptions of Peace UCC

Theological assumptions on which we base the faith formation of our congregation – Revised from 2003.  
Affirmed by Peace UCC congregation July 27, 2014

We live in covenant relationship with God who is grace and mercy, loving, creative, inclusive, mysterious.

1. Revealed in creation and human history, in word and deed
2. Experienced in the wonder and joy of self-giving love, and in our world of science, nature, literature, art, play and music
3. Known in the spirit-filled power and goodness of community
4. Celebrated in covenant partnership and steadfast commitment
5. Affirmed in living tradition and life-embracing action
6. Always calling us to ministries of healing and hope for and with others
7. One who claims our hands and hearts for justice, peace, and compassion in caring about the marginalized and all of God's creatures.

We understand the following about Jesus, whom we call the Christ and who embodied our Creator

1. Jesus was a historical figure, a teacher, and a rebel, deeply committed to community
2. Through the story of his life, death, and resurrection, we experience more fully the God who is Love and learn that goodness transcends evil
3. From his life, teachings and ministry,
  - We understand that no one is shunned by God; indeed our understanding of community extends an extravagant welcome to all, demonstrates care for all vulnerable creatures and embodies respect for life and compassion for all in decisions, action and practice.
  - We learn to hear, trust and follow the still-speaking God
  - We know that each person has infinite worth

We recognize God's Spirit as the breath of God within us and moving in all creation,

1. Empowering us to transform hurt into healing, fear into faith, death into life
2. Allowing us to know the power of forgiveness and the miracle of new birth
3. Enabling us to celebrate the joy of relationship and the gifts of God
4. Inspiring us to discern the meaning of "sacred" and "holy" in our life together

We take the Bible seriously but not literally, accepting that individuals may understand it as fact, metaphor, myth or story.

1. The Bible is the recorded witness of our historic faith ancestors, showing how God was working in their lives
2. These frail human words have the potential to reveal God speaking with us and acting among us
3. Interpretation of the Bible and other texts requires reason, living tradition, and human experience
4. Context and cultural perspectives shape faithful biblical study, offering the opportunity for questioning, discussion, inspiration, and discernment

As a gathered people of faith, we live in community,

1. Demonstrating care and compassion for all living creatures
2. Celebrating worship, engaging in ministry and mission, and honoring commitment
3. Respecting and caring for all creation and the environment
4. Respecting, engaging with, and learning from differing cultures, faiths, texts and traditions
5. Embracing life's journey, and honoring and encouraging the questions that come up along the way
6. Valuing the questions more than the answers
7. Like Jesus, welcoming all at the Table which is at the center of our life together