

PREAMBLE / DECLARATION OF STANDARDS

The Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa shares the faith that the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church has always held.

It believes and trusts in Jesus Christ as the Lord and Redeemer of the world, in whom God saves us by grace through faith. In line with what God has revealed in Jesus Christ it worships one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This Church accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as inspired by the Holy Spirit to be the uniquely authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and as such the Word of God and the final rule of faith and life.

It accepts the ecumenical creeds commonly called the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds as subordinate standards that witness to, and safeguard, the faith that was committed to the disciples of our Lord.

It recognizes as witnessing to the Reformed faith the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Twenty-four Articles of the Faith, with their Appendix, and affirms as its own confessions of faith and subordinate standards the Confession of Faith of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa and the Declaration of Faith for the Church in Southern Africa.

The Uniting Church affirms its right to formulate, adopt, modify and interpret its doctrinal statements, always subject to the Word of God, under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit and in accord with the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. Of this accord this Church itself shall be the sole judge.

This Church recognizes liberty of opinion on all points of doctrine that are not fundamental to the faith. But it retains the right in every case to judge what falls within this description and to guard against any abuse of this liberty that may injure its witness, unity or peace.