**UCC COMMON BELIEFS**

God: There is one Creator God – all knowing, all loving, and all powerful, who co-exists eternally in three distinct persons, The Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: The gospel is the good news that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, was raised from the dead on the third day, ascended to heaven, and will return again in power and glory (1st Corinthians 15: 1-4).

Spirit: The Holy Spirit dwells within every follower of Jesus in order to counsel, equip, empower, guide, and transform each believer into the likeness of Jesus. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to mature and build up the church for the work of God in the world.

The Bible: The Bible is the authoritative word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is a vital component for helping us understand God as well as God’s will for our lives.

The Church: Jesus is the head of the church. The church is the body of Christ, called by God, and sent by God to bless the world and bring glory to God. We hold as our ideal the purity of the church on the day of its inception and practice believer’s baptism by full immersion (Acts 2).

Congregational Autonomy: We are Christians only (but not the only Christians). Autonomy is a unique feature of our movement. We do not answer to a regional or national headquarters. Our congregation makes its own decisions based on its understanding of God’s Word.

The Open Table: We celebrate the Lord’s Supper every Sunday to recognize the body of Christ—both Jesus’ death on the Cross and the reconciliation the Cross brought about in our relationships with one another. We believe God invites everyone into the family and we allow each person the decision to participate in the Supper.

The Open Road: God calls us out into the world to spread the Gospel (Good News) to everyone, so we journey together to live out in practical ways our commitment to God’s vision of bringing peace to the world.

Family: We are all “priests” (i.e., the priesthood of all believers) and are called to be brothers and sisters in God’s family. We share our lives together and imagine our worship gatherings as a family living and dining room where we gather to embody, express, and remind ourselves of what we believe about God, Christ, ourselves, and the world.

Music: One of the more unique features in our Sunday morning worship assembly is *a cappella* music, that is, purely vocal music. The term means “in the manner of the church,” and its practice reminds us that this was the musical choice of much of Christian history. Our Sunday evening worship assembly features instrumental music that utilizes a variety of musical gifts from various members of our community.