

Belrose Uniting Church

Who are we and what do we believe?

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

Assembly of
Confessing
Congregation



We worship God in a welcoming and supportive environment that fosters teaching and growth, sharing Jesus' love in word and action within our church and the wider community.

Who are we?

We are all about following Jesus. BUC is a community of imperfect people who have experienced the love and forgiveness of a wonderful God. We are a local expression of God's eternal and universal church, called to be God's people who love, worship, glorify, and serve our living King, Jesus Christ.

We are part of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia, adhering to the *Basis of Union* of the Uniting Church, built upon the historic creeds and confessions of the worldwide apostolic and reformed Church, and joining with other UCA Congregations in contending for the biblical faith: *Confessing the Lord Jesus Christ, Proclaiming the Truth and Renewing the Church.*

what do we believe?

We believe that truth matters; and so, what we believe is foundational to who we are: it forms our Values and Vision, and directs the way we live, what we do, and the focus of our ministries.

We believe the Bible to be God's Word; that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are God-breathed, since their writers spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; and hence are fully trustworthy in all that they affirm; and are our highest and final authority for our faith and Christian living. **So, from the Bible we affirm and believe that:**

The way of salvation is through Christ alone, by Faith alone, by Grace alone.

We uphold the Reformed belief that salvation comes only through atonement in Christ, through faith, and this is all by God's grace, not earned or merited by humankind.

The Lord our God is one God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who fulfils His sovereign purposes - in creation, revelation, redemption, judgement, and the coming of his kingdom - by calling out from the world a people united to Himself and to each other in love.

God made us, male and female he created us. He made humanity in His own likeness and image, conferring dignity and worth, and enabling humanity to respond to Him. God has created and intended marriage to be between one man and one woman. Earthly marriage is a symbol of the ultimate heavenly marriage between Christ and the Church. However, we confess we are now members of a fallen race, failing to honour and obey our Holy God: we have sinned and come short of His glory.

The Father has shown us His love in giving Jesus Christ, His only Son, for us. While sinners, we were subject to His wrath and condemnation, He has shown His grace by putting sinners right with Himself when they place their trust in His Son.

Jesus Christ is Lord and God; truly human, born of the virgin Mary; as servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as our only Mediator and Saviour, dying on the cross in our place, representing us to God, redeeming us from the grip, guilt and punishment of sin; Victor over Satan and all his forces, rising from death with a glorious body, being taken up to be with his Father, one day returning personally in glory and judgement to establish his heavenly kingdom.

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement; makes the death of Christ effective to sinners, declaring that they must now turn to Christ in repentance, and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ; who through the new birth makes us partake in the life of the risen Christ, and who is present within all believers, illuminating their minds to grasp the truth of Scripture, producing in them his fruit, granting to them his gifts, and empowering them for service in the world.

Christ commands us to love our neighbours, and so to proclaim the Good News about Jesus to all people, making them disciples, and teaching them to obey him, and to serve our community with compassion and care.

(Adapted from the Scripture Union NSW Statement of Faith)

Belrose Uniting Church

Our Core Values

Assembly of
Confessing
Congregation



To Know Christ and Make Him Known

We worship God in a welcoming and supportive environment that fosters teaching and growth, sharing Jesus' love in word and action within our church and the wider community.

- 1. Know Christ and Make Him Known** – we love Jesus
Jesus is our God, King and Saviour, he defines us, we desire to know him through the Bible, and in obedience to his great commission we make known the good news of Jesus Christ to: friends and family, neighbours and colleagues, our community, and to the ends of the earth.
- 2. Bible** – we obey God's Word
We hold the Bible as God's ultimate revelation and authority that defines and informs our beliefs, values and behaviour so that its expository preaching and teaching is normative in all our ministries and is central to our corporate and personal lives.
- 3. Prayer** – we depend on God
We are committed to regular personal and corporate prayer for each other, our society and the world, because it is edifying, a great privilege and unlimited in potential, for God is good and gives guidance and answers prayers according to his divine power and wisdom.
- 4. Enthusiastic Membership** – we care about our church
Christ is the head of his universal church of which BUC is a local expression, so in obedience to Christ we are "membered" to him through membership to each other at BUC where we enthusiastically honour, serve, discipline, love and build up every member in Christ.
- 5. Every Member Ministry** – everyone works for Christ
Christ has gifted the church with pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service, and so we value every member ministry where each is in Christian ministry through service in the church, home, community, workplace or place of study.
- 6. Pursuit of Holiness** – we seek to please God
As sin grieves God, it must grieve us as well and so in response to God's grace and salvation we are determined to strive to eliminate all sin in our personal lives, as we obey God's Word, allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and so seek to clothe ourselves in Christ.
- 7. Excellence in Everything** – we give our best to God
Out of respect and a desire to most glorify God, we commit to continual evaluation and improvement to achieve our absolute best in our: corporate worship, teaching, preaching, engaging with our local community, and in our public and personal lives.

Adopted by the Church Council August 2018