

Terms and Definitions for key positions of The Wesleyan Church and Houghton University



Summary of Doctrine: The summary of the Articles of Religion as set forth in *The Discipline* 299.

Candidates shall declare their agreement with the following summary of the Articles of Religion (210-250):

-We believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

-We believe that Jesus Christ the Son suffered in our place on the cross, that He died but rose again, that He now sits at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge every person at the last day.

-We believe in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

-We believe that by the grace of God every person has the ability and responsibility to choose between right and wrong, and that those who repent of their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by faith.

-We believe that God not only counts the believer as righteous, but that He makes such persons righteous, freeing them from sin's dominion at conversion, purifying their hearts by faith, perfecting them in love at entire sanctification, and providing for their growth in grace at every stage of spiritual life, enabling them through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to live victorious lives.

Doctrine: The Articles of Religion as set forth in *The Discipline* 210-250. <https://www.wesleyan.org/about/the-discipline> Note: This is a list of topics that are individually expanded upon in *The Discipline*.

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| 1. Faith in the Holy Trinity | 12. Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption |
| 2. The Father | 13. Good Works |
| 3. The Son of God | 14. Sin After Regeneration |
| 4. The Holy Spirit | 15. Sanctification: Initial, Progressive, Entire |
| 5. The Sufficiency and Full Authority of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation | 16. The Gifts of the Spirit |
| 6. God's Purpose for Humanity | 17. The Church |
| 7. Marriage and the Family | 18. The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper |
| 8. Personal Choice | 19. The Second Coming of Christ |
| 9. Sin: Original, Willful, and Involuntary | 20. The Resurrection of the Dead |
| 10. The Atonement | 21. The Judgment of All Persons |
| 11. Repentance and Faith | 22. Destiny |

Lifestyle Commitments: The Guides and Helps to Holy Living as set forth in *Discipline* 260-268. Note: See full details for each in *The Discipline*; this is simply an overview summary but the full guidelines should be reviewed.

Article 3. Guides and Helps to Holy Living

Identifying with the Church is both a privilege and a sacred duty for believers, who are called to live transformed lives reflecting Christ's mind; The Wesleyan Church upholds timeless biblical principles applied to modern life, guided by the Holy Spirit and collective Christian conscience, and expects members and leaders to faithfully follow these Guides and Helps to Holy Living as standards of conduct and witness.

Commit themselves to demonstrate their life in Christ in such ways as to:

Toward God

1. Reverence for God – Honor God's name and dedicate the Lord's Day to worship and spiritual growth and rest.
2. Spiritual Integrity – Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and reject all occult, spiritistic, or superstitious practices.

Toward Self

3. Stewardship – Use time and resources wisely for God's mission, showing generosity and compassion.
4. Personal Conduct – Live with discipline and health, avoiding gambling, harmful substances, and secret societies.
5. Sexual Purity and Identity – Follow biblical teaching regarding gender and sexual conduct.

Toward Family

6. Marriage and Divorce – Uphold biblical marriage between one man and one woman; sexual infidelity or certain sexual sins may justify divorce when reconciliation fails.
7. Family Life – Maintain Christlike love and peace in the home, reject all forms of abuse, and raise children in the faith.

Toward the Church

8. Fellowship in the Church – Promote the Church's unity through prayer, care, and mutual encouragement.
9. Spiritual Growth – Deepen faith through worship, Scripture, and devotion.
10. Worship and Tongues – Use understandable language in worship.

Toward Others

11. Do good as much as possible to all people – Serve others by meeting physical and spiritual needs, showing mercy and love to all.
12. Respect the inherent individual rights of all persons, regardless of race, color, or sex.
13. Live honestly, be just in all dealings and faithful in all commitments.