

## Our Guiding Principles

1. **We are profoundly influenced** by that stream of Christianity that, at its best, has preached and practiced a message of scandalous love, radical freedom, and profound responsibility to neighbor.
2. **God enters into covenant with us.** God has named us and claimed us as God's own through our baptism. This is all God's doing. It has nothing to do with our worthiness.
3. **This is God's gig.** Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, we meet a God who has a dream for us and for all creation. Jesus came to announce and to accomplish a new "kingdom" in which the last will be first, the hungry are filled, the outcast are welcomed with open arms, and death does not have the final word. This is God's agenda. It is the only agenda that matters.
4. **God is on the loose.** God will not conform to our expectations or be confined by our walls, our wishes, or our rituals. The whole Biblical story tells us that God is at work in and through the most unlikely people and in all kinds of places. And so we engage the world with eyes wide open, on the lookout for what God is up to in the midst of the everyday.
5. **Our lives matter.** The Biblical story tells us that God never works alone. One of the very first things Jesus did was to gather a group of women and men to work alongside of him. We are called to participate in what God is up to in the world, as a community of faith and in our everyday lives.
6. **Jesus sets us free** In and through Jesus, we have been set free from sin, death, fear, and anything else that separates us from God and from each other. We are called to live like that is true and to share this good news with everyone.
7. **We could be wrong.** The God who comes to meet us in Jesus was nailed to a tree but will not be nailed down by our pious proclamations. In fact, that cross teaches us that this God turns our every idea about who God is and what God is supposed to look like and how God is supposed to act upside down. As soon as we are convinced that we have all the answers, we are as wrong as we could possibly be. And so we engage our work and our world with a kind of bold humility, confident enough to say what we believe but smart enough to know we might be wrong and eager to learn from those who see things differently than we do.