

Scripture Union (Northern Ireland) asks that those who hold office within the Movement, as well as those who staff holiday mission and camp teams, and teachers who take responsibility in school SU groups, personally affirm the following Statement of Belief.

Aims

Working with the churches, Scripture Union aims

- (a) to make God's Good News known to children, young people and families and
- (b) to encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer

so that they may come to personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants of a world in need.

Statement of Belief

As the Scripture Union family throughout the world, we accept and proclaim the historic truths of the Christian faith including the following:

a. God and the human race

We hold that the Lord our God is one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that He 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.

We acknowledge that though God made us in His own likeness and image, conferring on us dignity and worth and enabling us to respond to Himself, we now are members of a fallen race; we have sinned and come short of His glory.

We believe that the Father has shown us His holy love in giving Jesus Christ, His only Son, for us, while through our sinfulness and guilt, we were subject to His wrath and condemnation; and has shown His grace by putting sinners right with Himself when they place their trust in His Son.

We confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God; as truly human, born of the virgin Mary; as Servant, sinless, full of grace and truth; as 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; as 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 kingdom.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement; who 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.

b. The Scriptures

We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are God-breathed, since their writers spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; hence are fully trustworthy in all they affirm; and are our highest authority for faith and life.

c. The Church and its Mission

We recognise the Church as the body of Christ, held together and growing up in Him; both as a total fellowship throughout the world, and as the local congregation in which believers gather.

We acknowledge the commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people, making them disciples, and teaching them to obey Him; and we acknowledge the command of Christ to love our neighbours, resulting in service to the church and society, in seeking reconciliation for all with God and their fellows, in proclaiming liberty from every kind of oppression; and in spreading Christ's justice in an unjust world... until He comes again.

This statement was adopted by the Scripture Union International Council at Harare, Zimbabwe in May 1985.

Besides this Statement of Belief and these Aims there are certain other convictions and emphases which are part of the basic philosophy of Scripture Union in Northern Ireland and which bind the Movement together.

a. A belief that the new birth is a supernatural, profound experience brought about by the Holy Spirit.

The Movement must therefore constantly guard against encouraging superficial decisions and spurious professions of faith. Underlining everything is a whole-hearted concern for positive God-guided evangelism.

b. An emphasis on Christian growth.

The Movement is aware of the danger of a divorce between doctrine and behaviour which might arise from an inadequate presentation of Christian truth. We are concerned that all our work should promote the development of Christian character.

c. A concern that young people should be brought into the life of the churches.

Evangelism which does not express and outwork this concern cannot be regarded as fulfilling the basic aims of the Movement.

d. A sincere endeavour, in the work in schools, to co-operate as far as possible with school authorities without compromise on matters of doctrine or aim.

e. A respect for the interdenominational character of the Scripture Union Movement, which seeks to serve all the churches drawing its helpers from many denominations.

The SU Movement should not be used as a platform to further by teaching or practice the special interests or views of any one denomination or group, to proselytise, or to cause division within the Body of Christ. Those who lead or supervise within Scripture Union have a responsibility to the Council as well as to others to see that those participating in its school and holiday activities refrain from using their privileged position in Scripture Union in any of these ways.

f. A commitment to the welfare of the children and young people involved in our activities.

The SU movement is committed to ensuring that children and young people are protected from physical, sexual, and emotional harm while they are involved in its activities. All SU staff and volunteers are expected to show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of children in their care. They are also expected to behave and conduct themselves in a way which reflects the highest possible standard in child care and which is consistent with the guidelines on child protection which they will receive from Scripture Union.



Doctrinal and Policy Guidelines

**for those involved in
Scripture Union activities**

**Issued by the
Scripture Union (Northern Ireland) Council**