

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The pastor makes the following statement to the congregation:

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation,

and through the reaffirmation of our faith,

we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,

acknowledge what God is doing for us,

and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The pastor addresses the candidates:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you

to resist evil, injustice, and oppression

in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

put your whole trust in his grace,

and promise to serve him as your Lord,

in union with the Church which Christ has opened

to people of all ages, nations and races?

I do.

The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,

reaffirm both your rejection of sin

and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The pastor addresses all those transferring their membership into the United Methodist Church:

As members of Christ's universal Church,

will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,

and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

The pastor addresses all those transferring membership into the congregation:

As members of this congregation,

Will you faithfully participate in its ministries

by your prayers, your presence,

your gifts, and your service, and your witness?

I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

The pastor addresses the congregation:

Members of the household of God,

I commend *these persons* to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase *their* faith,

confirm *their* hope, and perfect *them* in love?

The congregation responds:

We give thanks for all God has already given you and

we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you

in the body of Christ

and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church,

we renew our covenant

faithfully to participate

in the ministries of the Church

by our prayers, our presence,

our gifts, our service, and our witness,

that in everything God may be glorified

through Jesus Christ.

The pastor addresses those baptized, confirmed, or received:

The God of all grace,

who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,

establish you and strengthen you

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

that you may live in grace and peace.