

Reception of New Members

The UNITED CHURCH is nondenominational in fellowship and accepts into membership all persons from all denominations who express a desire to join the Church. We have neither creed nor confession and no final authoritative answer to which one must adhere. At the time of reception of new members we cite our commonly held principles:

We value the right of individuals to develop and hold their own personal religious philosophies and to know and express God in their own way.

We value the teachings of Jesus as words that speak to us at this time and place, as a guide for living, and as an invitation for personal moral reflection.

We respect the dignity and worth of each individual and hold a reverence for the creative process whereby individual differences and understandings are sought out, honored, and explored.

We uphold the authority of one's own conscience, informed by rigorous thought, tested experience, keen sensitivity, and tender-hearted feelings.

We value the right and privilege to question, to challenge, to speak one's own opinion and to ask accountability from others and from one's own self, too.

We recognize the dynamic nature of truth, the value of a systematic, scientific approach to it, and the necessity of a never-ending search for it.

We recognize the value of personal commitment: setting one's own standards and goals, being self-disciplined in the pursuit of these goals, taking responsibility for the results of these commitments.

We recognize the value of and need for an intentional religious community and the importance of the democratic process within that religious community.

Presenting for membership are _____. Do you desire to unite with such a Community of Faith and join us on the journey, seeking to achieve and to fulfill such principles as described?

Candidate: I do.

Do you desire to attend worship and participate, as you may feel inspired, in other aspects of congregational life; to pray and labor for its well-being and growth; to help and give (as you are able) in sustaining its programs, activities and charities; and, thus, unite with us in the love of truth?

Candidate: I do.

Members of the United Church, do you today warmly welcome into the membership of this congregation these who desire to become members of our community of faith, and do you offer your loving care and support?

Congregation: We do.

We are happy to welcome you into the fellowship of the United Church and extend the hand of fellowship on behalf of the congregation.

*Where people from all denominations meet in their differences,
But are one in their search for God.*