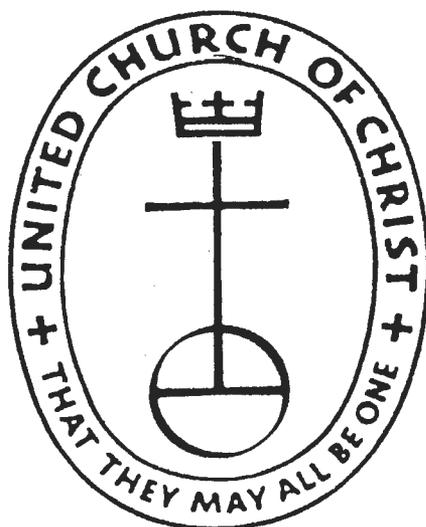


UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE
FOR THE
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS



RECEPTION OF MEMBERS INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

PASTOR CALLS FORWARD, BY NAME, ALL WHO WISH TO BECOME NEW MEMBERS.

PASTOR: HEAR THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:

"ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE CLOSE OF THE AGE."

OBEYING THE WORD OF OUR LORD JESUS, AND SURE OF HIS PRESENCE WITH US, WE RECEIVE THOSE WHOM HE HAS CALLED TO BE HIS OWN.

FRIEND(S), IN PRESENTING YOURSELF FOR MEMBERSHIP, YOU ANNOUNCE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, AND SHOW THAT YOU WANT TO STUDY HIM, KNOW HIM, LOVE HIM, AND SERVE HIM AS HIS CHOSEN DISCIPLE.

PASTOR: DO YOU ACCEPT CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?

NEW MEMBER: I DO!

PASTOR: DO YOU TRUST IN HIM?

NEW MEMBER: I DO!

PASTOR: WILL YOU BE A FAITHFUL MEMBER OF THIS HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, GIVING OF YOURSELF IN EVERY WAY, AND WILL YOU SEEK THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH WHEREVER YOU MAY BE?

NEW MEMBER: I WILL!

Let the prople stand. Members of the Council will come forward and stand behind the new member(s).

PASTOR: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ORDERED US TO TEACH THOSE WHO ARE BAPTIZED. IN RECEIVING THESE/THIS NEW MEMBER(S) INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, DO YOU THE PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH PROMISE TO HELP HIM/HER (THEM) GROW IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD?

THE PEOPLE: WE DO!

THE PASTOR AND THE PEOPLE:

O GOD, WHO CALLED US FROM DEATH TO LIFE; WE GIVE OURSELVES TO YOU, AND, WITH THE CHURCH THROUGH ALL AGES. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAVING LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN!

Members of the Council place their hands on the shoulders of the new members.

PASTOR: MOST GRACIOUS GOD, WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR YOUR TENDER LOVE IN SENDING JESUS CHRIST TO COME AMONG US, TO BE BORN OF A HUMAN MOTHER, AND TO MAKE THE WAY OF THE CROSS TO BE OUR WAY OF LIFE. POUR OUT THE ABUNDANCE OF YOUR BLESSING UPON THEM. DEFEND THEM FROM EVERY ENEMY. LEAD THEM INTO ALL PEACE. LET THEIR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR EACH OF US AS MEMBERS OF THEIR SPIRITUAL FAMILY BE A SEAL UPON THEIR HEARTS, A MANTLE ABOUT THEIR SHOULDERS, AND A CROWN UPON THEIR FOREHEADS. BLESS THEM IN THEIR WORK AMONG US, IN THEIR COMPANIONSHIP, IN THEIR SLEEPING, AND IN THEIR WAKING; IN THEIR JOYS AND IN THEIR SORROWS, IN THEIR LIFE AND IN THEIR DEATH. FINALLY, IN YOUR MERCY, BRING THEM TO THAT TABLE WHERE YOUR SAINTS FEAST FOREVER IN YOUR HEAVENLY HOME; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES AND REIGNS, ONE GOD FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN!

PASTOR: THIS (THESE) PERSON (PERSONS) ARE NOW RECEIVED INTO THE ONE HOLY UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH. SEE WHAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS GIVEN US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD; AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE!

Members of the Council and the Pastor offer the new member(s) the right hand of fellowship and on behalf of the people welcomes them into the church. The President of the Church Council presents the certificates of membership and envelopes to each new member.

PASTOR TO ALL PRESENT:

GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BLESS, PRESERVE, AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MERCIFULLY
WITH HIS FAVOR LOOK UPON YOU, AND FILL YOU WITH
ALL SPIRITUAL BENEDICTION AND GRACE; THAT AS
MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH, YOUR SPIRITUAL
FAMILY, YOU MAY FAITHFULLY LIVE TOGETHER IN THIS
LIFE, AND IN THE AGE TO COME HAVE LIFE EVERLAST-
ING. AMEN!

New members return to their pews.

PLEASE LEAVE THIS ORDER OF SERVICE IN THE PEW WHEN
YOU LEAVE SO IT CAN BE USED AT SUBSEQUENT SERVICES.
THANK YOU!