

*Basis of Union 1925

The Basis of Union will remain the foundational statement of our faith.

2.20 Article XX. *Of Christian Service and the Final Triumph.*

We believe it is our duty, as disciples and servants of Christ, to further the extension of His Kingdom, to do good unto all men, to maintain the public and private worship of God, to hallow the Lord's Day, to preserve the inviolability of marriage and the sanctity of the family, to uphold the just authority of the State, and so to live in all honesty, purity, and charity, that our lives shall testify of Christ.

We joyfully receive the word of Christ, bidding His people go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, declaring unto them that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and that He will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We confidently believe that by His power and grace all His enemies shall finally be overcome, and the kingdoms of this world be made the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

Personal Reflections

Are there words here, in which your heart delights?

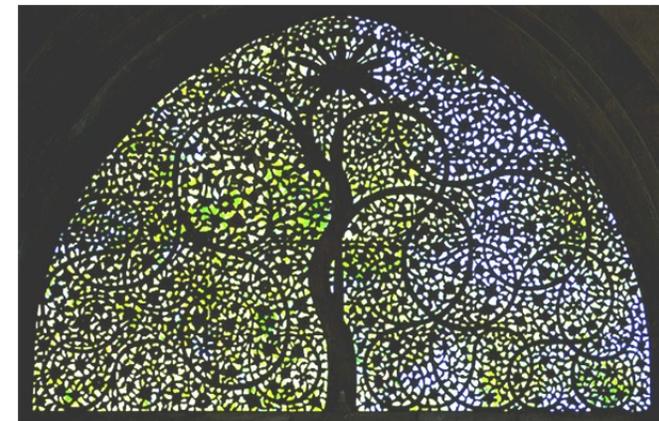
Are there words here that make you ask questions?

Are there words here that form a barrier to understanding?

Are there words here that make you say "Aha – that helps me!"

Are there words here you think are helpful to other people?

You may ask for complete copies of all the Statements of Faith from the minister, or check our website: oakridgeunited.org for the documents.



What do we say of Life in Christ?



Seeking to be faithful in every age and place, we try to speak of that for which words are not enough.

The United Church of Canada has asked every congregation to review **The Statement of Faith 1940**, the "**Song of Faith**" and "**A New Creed**" and vote on whether these statements should be **added with** the old **1925 Basis of Union**, as ways the United Church will formally and officially describe our faith.

These brochures compare what the statements say:

Of God
Of Revelation (how we find God in the world)
Of Jesus
Of the Sacraments
Of the Holy Spirit
Of Life in Christ
Of the Church

Song of Faith 2009



**In and with God,
we can direct our lives toward
right relationship
with each other and with God.**

We can discover our place as one strand in
the web of life.

We can grow in wisdom and compassion.

We can recognize all people as kin.

We can accept our mortality and finitude,
not as a curse,

but as a challenge to make our lives
and choices matter.

Made in the image of God,

we yearn for the fulfillment that is life in God.

Yet we choose to turn away from God.

We surrender ourselves to sin,

a disposition revealed in selfishness,
cowardice, or apathy.

Becoming bound and complacent
in a web of false desires and wrong choices,
we bring harm to ourselves and others.

This brokenness in human life
and community is an outcome of sin.

Sin is not only personal

but accumulates

to become habitual and systemic forms
of injustice, violence, and hatred.

We are all touched by this brokenness:

the rise of selfish individualism

that erodes human solidarity;

the concentration of wealth and power

Song of Faith 2009 continued

without regard for the needs of all;

the toxins of religious and ethnic bigotry;

the degradation of the blessedness of
human bodies

and human passions through
sexual exploitation;

the delusion of unchecked progress and
limitless growth

that threatens our home, the earth;

the covert despair that lulls many into
numb complicity

with empires and systems of domination.

We sing lament and repentance.

Yet evil does not—cannot—

undermine or overcome the love of God.

God forgives, and calls all of us to confess our
fears and failings

with honesty and humility.

God reconciles, and calls us to repent the
part we have played

in damaging our world, ourselves, and
each other.

God transforms,

and calls us to protect the vulnerable,

to pray for deliverance from evil,

to work with God for the healing of the world,

that all might have abundant life.

We sing of grace.

A New Creed

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

Statement of Faith 1940

XI: Christian Life and Duty

We believe Christian life is the life lived in fellowship with Christ and His Church. It begins with repentance and faith. In repentance men turn from sin to serve the holy and forgiving God with new and glad obedience. In faith they entrust themselves to Christ and rest upon Him alone for salvation.

We believe that by the teaching and example of Jesus the Holy Spirit shows men the way and the end of the Christian life, what it means to love God with all the heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love their neighbour as themselves.

We believe Christian men are called to abide within the fellowship of the Church, to maintain its peace and unity, and to give diligent heed to prayer, to the reading of Scripture, to common worship and the sacraments.

We believe they are likewise called to live as those who are of the Kingdom of God, and to seek His righteousness both in individual and social life, serving their fellow-men in love for Christ's sake, and striving and waiting in prayer for an ordered common life where the will of God for the well-being and peace of men shall be done over all the earth.

We believe in denying themselves and following Christ men are enabled by the Spirit of God more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness; they are, under the hand of a faithful Father, in labour, love, and duty, in suffering, sorrow and defeat, renewed in the inner man after the image of the crucified and victorious Christ; and they receive in this life a foretaste of the final redemption, assurance of divine favour, peace and joy, and the confidence that He is able to keep them to the end.

So we acknowledge the Christian life as the life lived within the family of God, with the graces and privileges, the duties and discipline, through which the Christian man grows up in all things into Christ.