

*Basis of Union 1925

2.16 Article XVI. *Of the Sacraments.*

We acknowledge two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which were instituted by Christ, to be of perpetual obligation as signs and seals of the covenant ratified in His precious blood, as a means of grace, by which, working in us, He doth not only quicken but also strengthen and comfort our faith in Him, and as ordinances through the observance of which His Church is to confess her Lord and be visibly distinguished from the rest of the world.

2.16.1 Baptism with water into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is the sacrament by which are signified and sealed our union to Christ and participation in the blessings of the new covenant. The proper subjects of baptism are believers and infants presented by their parents or guardians in the Christian faith. In the latter case the parents or guardians should train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and should expect that their children will, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, receive the benefits which the sacrament is designed and fitted to convey. The Church is under the most solemn obligation to provide for their Christian instruction.

2.16.2 The Lord's Supper is the sacrament of communion with Christ and with His people, in which bread and wine are given and received in thankful remembrance of Him and His sacrifice on the Cross; and they who in faith receive the same do, after a spiritual manner, partake of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to their comfort, nourishment, and growth in grace. All may be admitted to the Lord's Supper who make a credible profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus and of obedience to His law.

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 look at <http://www.united-church.ca/files/beliefs/statements/our-words-of-faith.pdf>



What do we say of Sacraments?



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



To point to the presence of the holy in
the world,
the church receives, consecrates, and
shares visible signs of the grace of God.

In company with the churches
of the Reformed and Methodist traditions,
we celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ:

Baptism and Holy Communion.

In these sacraments the ordinary things of life
—water, bread, wine—
point beyond themselves to God and God's
love,

teaching us to be alert
to the sacred in the midst of life.

Before conscious thought or action on our
part, we are born into the brokenness of this
world.

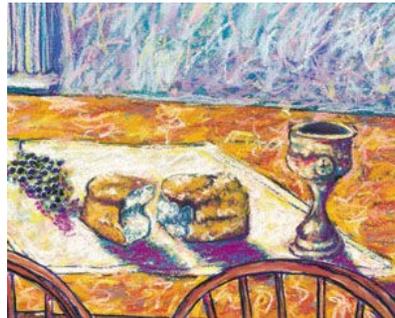
Before conscious thought or action on our
part,
we are surrounded by God's redeeming love.

Baptism by water
in the name of the Holy Trinity
is the means by which we are received,
at any age,
into the covenanted community of the church.

Song of Faith 2009 continued

It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith
and cleansing by the power of God.
Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining,
and transforming power of God's love
and our grateful response to that grace.

Carrying a vision of creation healed and restored,
we welcome all in the name of Christ.



Invited to the table where none shall go hungry,
we gather as Christ's guests and friends.

In holy communion

we are commissioned to feed as we have
been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.

The open table speaks of the shining promise
of barriers broken and creation healed.

In the communion meal, wine poured out and
bread broken,

we remember Jesus,

We remember not only the promise but also the
price that he paid

for who he was,
for what he did and said,
and for the world's brokenness.

Statement of Faith 1940

X. The Sacraments

We believe that the Sacraments of
Baptism and the Lord's Supper are effec-
tual means through which, by common
things and simple acts, the saving love of
God is exhibited and communicated to
His people, who receive them in faith.

We believe that in Baptism men are
made members of the Christian society.
Washing with water in the name of the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
signifies God's cleansing from sin and an
initial participation in the gifts and graces
of the new life. The children of believing
parents are baptized and nurtured in the
family of God so that they may in due
time take upon themselves the yoke of
Christ.

We believe that the Lord's Supper per-
petuates the fellowship between Christ
and His disciples sealed in the upper
room, that at His table He is always
present, and His people are nourished,
confirmed, and renewed. The giving and
receiving of bread and wine accompa-
nied by His own words signifies the
gracious self-giving of Christ as suffering
and living Lord in such wise that His
faithful people live in Him and He in
them.

So we acknowledge Baptism as God's
appointed means of grace at initiation
into the Christian fellowship; and the
Lord's Supper as His appointed means of
maintaining the fellowship in health and
strength, and as the act of worship in
which the whole soul of man goes out to
God and God's grace comes freely to
man.