

*Basis of Union 1925

No Matter how we vote, the Basis of Union will still remain as the foundational statement of our faith.

2.8 Article VIII. *Of the Holy Spirit.*

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who moves upon the hearts of men to restrain them from evil and to incite them unto good, and whom the Father is ever willing to give unto all who ask Him.

We believe that He has spoken by holy men of God in making known His truth to men for their salvation; that, through our exalted Saviour, He was sent forth in power to convict the world of sin, to enlighten men's minds in the knowledge of Christ, and to persuade and enable them to obey the call of the Gospel; and that He abides with the Church, dwelling in every believer as the spirit of truth, of power, of holiness, of comfort, and of love.

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 the Holy Spirit?



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



We Sing of God the Spirit

The fullness of life includes

moments of unexpected inspiration
and courage lived out,
experiences of beauty, truth, and goodness,
blessings of seeds and harvest,
friendship and family, intellect and sexuality,
the reconciliation of persons through justice
and communities living in righteousness,
and the articulation of meaning.

And so we sing of God the Spirit,

who from the beginning has swept
over the face of creation,
animating all energy and matter
and moving in the human heart.

We sing of God the Spirit,

faithful and untameable,
who is creatively and redemptively
active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy

not only in what is familiar,
but also in that which seems foreign.

Song of Faith 2009 continued

We sing of the Spirit,
who speaks our prayers of deepest longing
and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
transforming us and the world.

We offer worship

as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
and a practice of opening ourselves
to God's still, small voice of comfort,
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
in community and in solitude,

God changes our lives, our relationships,
and our world.

We sing with trust.

A New Creed

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

Statement of Faith 1940

III. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit by
whom God is ever at work in the
minds and hearts of men, inspiring
every right desire and every effort
after truth and beauty.

We believe that the Spirit of God
moves men to acknowledge their
sins and accept the divine
forgiveness and grace.

We believe that the Spirit was
present with power at the beginning
of the Church, enabling the disciples
to bear witness to what they had
seen and heard, filling them with
love of the brethren, and hope of
the coming Kingdom, and sustaining
them in the sense of Christ's
continuing presence in their midst.

We believe that by the same Spirit
the Church is continually guided and
empowered, and her members
fortified against temptation, fear
and doubt, and built up in faith and
holiness unto salvation.

So we acknowledge the Holy Spirit
as the Lord and Giver of life,
through whom the creative,
redeeming love of God is ever at
work among men.