

*Basis of Union 1925

Article II. Of Revelation.

We believe that God has revealed Himself in nature, in history, and in the heart of man;

that He has been graciously pleased to make clearer revelation of Himself to men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit;

and that in the fullness of time He has perfectly revealed Himself in Jesus Christ: the Word made flesh, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person.

We receive the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, given by inspiration of God, as containing the only infallible rule of faith and life, a faithful record of God's gracious revelations, and as the sure witness of Christ.

*Currently the only "Official" Statement of Faith

Personal Reflections

Are there words here, in which your heart delights?

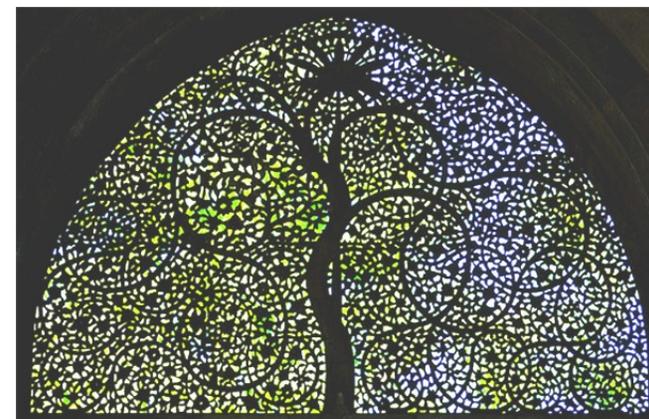
Are there words here that make you ask questions?

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 Revelation?



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

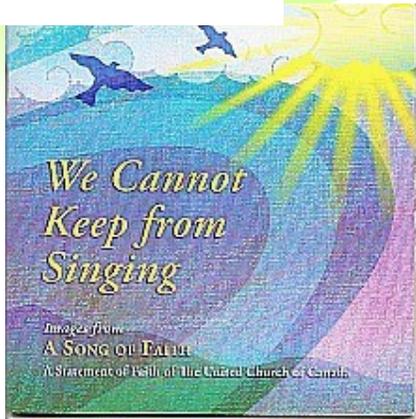
The Statement of Faith 1940,
the "**Song of Faith**" and "**A New Creed**"

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



Finding ourselves in a world of beauty
and mystery,
of living things, diverse
and interdependent,
of complex patterns of growth
and evolution, of subatomic particles
and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the Creator,
the Maker and Source of all that is.

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects
of God the Creator,
who is both in creation and beyond it.
All parts of creation,
animate and inanimate, are related.
All creation is good.

We sing of the Creator,
who made humans to live and move
and have their being in God.
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.
Scripture is our song for the journey,
the living word
passed on from generation to generation
to guide and inspire,
that we might wrestle a holy revelation
for our time and place
from the human experiences
and cultural assumptions of another era.
God calls us to be doers of the word and
not hearers only.

The Spirit breathes revelatory power into
scripture,
bestowing upon it a unique and normative
place
in the life of the community.
The Spirit judges us critically when we abuse
scripture
by interpreting it narrow-mindedly,
using it as a tool of oppression,
exclusion, or hatred.

The wholeness of scripture testifies
to the oneness and faithfulness of God.
The multiplicity of scripture
testifies to its depth:
two testaments, four gospels,
contrasting points of view held in tension—
all a faithful witness
to the One and Triune God,
the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

Statement of Faith 1940

IX. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the great moments of
God's revelation and communication of
Himself to men are recorded and inter-
preted in the Scriptures of the Old and
New Testament.

We believe that, while God uttered His
Word to man in many portions
progressively, the whole is sufficient to
declare His mind and will for our
salvation. To Israel He made Himself
known as a holy and righteous God and
a Saviour; the fullness of truth and grace
came by Jesus Christ. The writings were
collected and preserved by the Church.

We believe that the theme of all Holy
Scripture is the redemptive purpose and
working of God, and that herein lies its
unity.

We believe that in Holy Scripture God
claims the complete allegiance of our
mind and heart; that the full
persuasion of the truth and authority of
the Word of God contained in the Scrip-
ture is the work of the Holy Spirit in our
hearts; that, using Holy Scripture, the Spirit
takes of the things of Christ and shows
them unto us for our spiritual nourishment
and growth in grace.

So we acknowledge in Holy Scripture
the true witness to God's Word and the
sure guide to Christian faith and con-
duct.