

## \*Basis of Union 1925

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

### 2.15 Article XV. *Of the Church.*

We acknowledge one holy Catholic Church, the innumerable company of saints of every age and nation, who being united by the Holy Spirit to Christ their Head are one body in Him and have communion with their Lord and with one another.

Further, we receive it as the will of Christ, that His Church on earth should exist as a visible and sacred brotherhood, consisting of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, together with their children, and other baptized children, and organized for the confession of His name, for the public worship of God, for the administration of the sacraments, for the upbuilding of the saints, and for the universal propagation of the Gospel; and we acknowledge as a part, more or less pure, of this universal brotherhood, every particular church throughout the world which professes this faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him as divine Lord and Saviour.

## 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.

In life, in death, in life beyond death

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

## 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](http://oakridgeunited.org) for the documents.



## What do we say of the Church?



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 a church  
seeking to continue the story of Jesus by  
embodying Christ's presence in the world.**

We are called together by Christ  
as a community of broken but  
hopeful believers,

loving what he loved,  
living what he taught,

striving to be faithful servants of God  
in our time and place.

Our ancestors in faith bequeath to us ex-  
periences of their faithful living;  
upon their lives our lives are built.

Our living of the gospel makes us a part of  
this communion of saints,  
experiencing the fulfillment of God's reign  
even as we actively anticipate a new heav-  
en and a new earth.

The church has not always lived up to its  
vision.

It requires the Spirit to reorient it, helping it  
to live an emerging faith while honouring  
tradition,

challenging it to live by grace rather than  
entitlement,

for we are called to be a blessing to the  
earth.

## Song of Faith 2009 continued

We sing of God's good news lived out,  
a church with purpose:

faith nurtured and hearts comforted,  
gifts shared for the good of all,  
resistance to the forces that exploit and  
marginalize,

fierce love in the face of violence,  
human dignity defended,  
members of a community held and  
inspired by God,  
corrected and comforted,  
instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ,  
creation's mending.

We sing of God's mission.

We are each given particular  
gifts of the Spirit.

For the sake of the world,

God calls all followers of Jesus to  
Christian ministry.

In the church,  
some are called to specific ministries  
of leadership,

both lay and ordered;  
some witness to the good news;  
some uphold the art of worship;  
some comfort the grieving and guide the  
wandering;

some build up the community of wisdom;  
some stand with the oppressed and work  
for justice.

To embody God's love in the world,  
the work of the church requires the ministry  
and discipleship  
of all believers.

## Statement of Faith 1940

### VII. THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church, the society of the redeemed, was brought into existence by God Himself through the work and risen power of Christ, Who in calling men into fellowship with Himself calls them by the same act into fellow-ship with one another in Him.

We believe that the Church is the organ of Christ's mind and redemptive will, the body of which He is the Head. Under Him the Church is called to the proclamation of the everlasting Gospel with its offer of salvation, to the worship of God, Creator and Redeemer, to the loving service of mankind, and to the care and nurture of the flock.

We believe that all members of the Church are one in Him, and that the life of the Church in every age is continuous with that of the first apostolic company. The groups commonly known as "churches" are called to share in the life of the whole Church, of all ages and of all lands, entering freely into the full her-itage of thought, worship, and discipline, and living together in mutual confidence.

We believe that for the fulfillment of her mission in the world God has given to the Church the Ministry, the Scriptures and the Sacraments.

So we acknowledge one holy, catholic, apostolic Church, the Body of Christ, the household and family of God.