

Reception of Members

For use when members are being received into membership of a local congregation by transfer from another congregation or by re-affirmation of faith.

This follows the reading of Scripture and the sermon or another form of proclamation of the Word.

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1. Introduction
 2. The Affirmation
 3. The Welcome

1. Introduction

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the only head of the Church,
and in accordance with the decision
of this local church meeting,
we now receive N
by transfer from X Church/ by re-affirmation of faith
into membership of this congregation
of the United Reformed Church.

(Other words, appropriate to the circumstances, may be used)

2. The Affirmation

By baptism N has been received into membership of the one,
holy, catholic and apostolic Church. *She/he* has affirmed
her/his baptism, confessed *her/his* faith in Jesus Christ as
her/his Saviour and Lord, and has accepted the privileges and
responsibilities of membership of the Church of Christ.

If appropriate, reference may be made to previous membership.

(We rejoice in the pilgrimage that has brought *her/him* to
this time and place. We give thanks to God for every
community of faith that has nurtured *her/his* faith along the
way, and for *her/his* desire to join with us in Christian faith
and discipleship.)

As *she/he* comes to unite with us in this congregation
(or to renew *her/his* membership of the church)
we invite *her/him* to re-affirm *her/his* confession of faith,
and to promise to live as a faithful member of this fellowship.

N, do you confess anew your faith and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
maker of heaven and earth, giver of life,
redeemer of the world?

I do.

Do you promise to continue in the worship and fellowship of the Church in this congregation, accepting the gift and cost of following Christ, and proclaiming by word and action the good news of God in Christ?

I do, with God's help.

or

N, do you confess anew your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you promise to share with us in the life of this church, and to be faithful in the privileges and responsibilities of church membership?

I do, with God's help.

Promise by the congregation:

In welcoming N as a fellow-member in the life of this church, do you promise your friendship in the Lord, and will you give *her/him your* support in prayer and service, so that *she/he*, with us, may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and witness to Jesus Christ our risen Lord?

We do, and with God's help, we will.

God of grace,
you call us to be your servant people,
and gather us into the body of Christ.
We thank you for sending us N
to work with us in serving your kingdom.
Confirm us all in the power of your covenant
to live in your Spirit,
to love each other
and to share the mind of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

3. The Welcome

The minister and one or more of the elders greet the new member(s) with the right hand of fellowship as a sign of welcome.

**In the name of Christ we welcome you.
May we grow together in unity,
and be built up into the body of Christ in love,
to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

The service may continue with the Lord's Supper. The new member(s) may bring forward the bread and wine.