

Reception of members

This service is offered as an example. Ministers and worship leaders are free and encouraged to choose appropriate Bible passages, and to write or prepare their own prayers and material to use alongside or instead of the examples here.

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 proclamation of the Word.

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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 reaffirmation of faith into membership of this congregation of the United Reformed Church.

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

The affirmation

By baptism ... N ... has been received into membership of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. *They* have also affirmed *their* baptism, confessed *their* faith in Jesus Christ, and accepted the privileges and responsibilities of membership of the one Church.

If appropriate, reference may be made to previous membership.

(We rejoice in the pilgrimage that has brought *them* to this time and place. We give thanks to God for every community of faith that has nurtured *their* faith along the way, and for *their* desire to join with us in Christian faith and discipleship.) As *they* come to unite with us in this congregation (or to renew *their* membership of the church) we invite *them* to re-affirm *their* confession of faith, and to promise to live as a faithful member of this fellowship.

... N ... , do you confess anew your faith in the one God, Eternal Trinity, from whom and through whom all created things exist, the God whom Jesus called Father, and who is ever present with us in the Holy Spirit?
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.

or

... 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.

Promise by the congregation

In welcoming ... N ... as a fellow member in the life of this church, do you promise your friendship in Christ, and will you give *them* your support in prayer and service, so that *they*, with us, may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God and witness to the Gospel?

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

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

All **Amen.**

The welcome

The Minister and one or more of the Elders greet the new member(s).

They may, for example, offer 'the right hand of fellowship'.

Paul wrote in Galatians 2:9;

'...when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognised the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship.'

So we, recognising the grace that is in you, shake your hand.

The congregation may say together:

All **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, eternal and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.**

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