

Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church (Basis of Union, Schedule D)

Version I

The United Reformed Church confesses the faith of the Church catholic in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The United Reformed Church acknowledges that the life of faith to which it is called is a gift of the Holy Spirit continually received in Word and Sacrament and in the common life of God's people.

The United Reformed Church acknowledges the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people.

The United Reformed Church accepts with thanksgiving the witness borne to the catholic faith by the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and recognises as its own particular heritage the formulations and declarations of faith which have been valued by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and members of Churches of Christ as stating the Gospel and seeking to

Version II

With the whole Christian Church the United Reformed Church believes in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together. **We acknowledge the gift and answer the call, giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority for what we believe and do is God's Word in the Bible alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit. **We respond to this Word, whose servants we are with all God's people through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God the witness to the catholic faith in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ in which they stated the faith and sought to make its implications clear.

Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source, renewed for every

Proposed Version III

With the whole Christian Church, the United Reformed Church believes in one God, **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Holy Spirit's gift, continually received **through the Word, the Sacraments and in the common life of God's people.**

The supreme authority for the faith and conduct of God's people is the Word of God, in the Bible, **discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God the witness to the catholic faith in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ in which **they stated the faith and sought to make its implications clear.**

The United Reformed Church testifies to its faith, and orders its life, according to the Basis of Union, believing it to embody the essential notes of the Church catholic and reformed.

The United Reformed Church nevertheless reserves its right and declares its readiness at any time to alter, add to, modify or supersede this Basis so that its life may accord more nearly with the mind of Christ.

The United Reformed Church, under the authority of Holy Scripture and in corporate responsibility to Jesus Christ its ever living head, acknowledges its duty to be open at all times to the leading of the Holy Spirit and therefore affirms its right to make such new declarations of its faith and for such purposes as may from time to time be required by obedience to the same Spirit.

The United Reformed Church, believing that it is through the freedom of the Spirit that Jesus Christ holds his people in the fellowship of the one Body, upholds the rights of

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union in which we give expression to our faith in forms which we believe contain the essential elements of the Church's life, both catholic and reformed; but we affirm our right and readiness, if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union and to make new statements of faith in ever new obedience to the Living Christ. **Our crucified and risen Lord, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ through the freedom of the Spirit, we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts and uphold the rights of personal conviction.

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union in which we give expression to our faith in forms which we believe contain the essential elements of the Church's life, both catholic and reformed; but we affirm our right and readiness, if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union and to make new statements of faith as we continue to seek the mind of Christ in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Held together by Jesus Christ through the freedom of the Spirit, we uphold the rights of personal conviction.

It shall be for the church, in safeguarding the substance of the faith and maintaining the unity of the fellowship, to determine when these rights are asserted to the injury of its unity and peace.

The United Reformed Church declares that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only ruler and head of the Church, has therein appointed a government distinct from civil government and in things spiritual not subordinate thereto, and that civil authorities, being always subject to the rule of God, ought to respect the rights of conscience and of religious belief and to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind.

The United Reformed Church declares its intention, in fellowship with all the churches, to pray and work for such visible unity of the whole Church as Christ wills and in the way he wills, in order that people and nations may be led more and more to glorify the

For the sake of faith and fellowship it shall be for the church to decide where differences of conviction hurt our unity and peace. **We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love and grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head. Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief. **While we ourselves are servants in the world as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses so that people and nations may be led to love and serve God and praise him more and more for ever. **Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is: to God be eternal glory. Amen.**

It shall be for the church, in safeguarding faith and unity, **to decide when differences of conviction hurt our unity and peace.**

We believe that Christ gives the Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In the things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, **but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head.** Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, **and to respect the rights of conscience and religious belief.**

We declare our intention to go on praying and working, with all other Christians, for the visible unity of the Church as Christ wills and in the way he wills, **so that people and nations may be led more and more to glorify God.**

And so, Eternal God, Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is: **to you be glory, forever and ever, Amen.**