

The Reception of New Members

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Pastor: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

TO THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness that they may

grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

People: I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE PERRY HALL CONGREGATION

Pastor: As member(s) of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

People: I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME FOR NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**