

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Minister: I'd like to invite the following people to come forward: <insert name(s)>

Affirmation of Purpose

Beloved, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this household of faith. You are no longer strangers or sojourners, but are equal citizens with the saints and members of this household of faith, all of us together serving the great head of the church, Christ Jesus our Lord. You have confessed your faith in Jesus Christ by your participation in his work here in this church. Now, with this formal service, you will join us in full communion, accepting all of the privileges and responsibilities that accompany such a step of faith.

Introduction of New Members (Tell a bit about their background, etc.)

Charge

Acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord, do you promise to fulfill the duties of membership in this local church, joining us regularly in worship, engaging with us in Christian service, participating with us in Christian fellowship, and giving of your heart and resources to further the work of the Gospel?

We will, with God's help.

To the members of ----- Congregational Church, will you welcome these fellow travelers in the life of this church, accepting them as full members, extending your friendship and prayers to them and supporting them fully as one of your own?

We will, with God's help.

Owning the Covenant

In the presence of God and these witnesses, let us then read together our church covenant ...

Do you accept this covenant as your own, binding yourselves to us as a family of faith in service to God?

We do.

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, may your hand ever be over these, your servants, who have made this commitment to membership here today. May your Holy Spirit always be with them, and with all of us. Lead us all, together, in the knowledge and obedience of

your Word that we may continue to serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Acceptance

In the name of Jesus Christ, we extend a hearty welcome to you. You are now full members of this church. May we, together, grow in our love of, faith in and understanding of our God, made known in our Lord Jesus Christ. We extend the right hand of fellowship to you.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introduction of Our Newest Members

Declaration of the New Members

You stand before this congregation as children of God, ready to take your place in Christian fellowship. Do you now affirm your desire to be a follower of the Living God, and a student of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Response: I do!

The Covenant of ----- Congregational Church

(To be read by the new members and all members)

We covenant with God and with one another; and do bind ourselves, in the Presence of God, to walk together in all His ways, according as He is pleased to reveal Himself unto us in His blessed word of truth. (*Salem Covenant, 1629*)

Acceptance of the Covenant

Do you accept this covenant as your own, and enter into this fellowship as an outward sign of your membership in the Church Universal?

Response: I do!

Will you promise to promote the peace, prosperity, purity, and purpose of ----- Congregational Church, as God Himself shall strengthen and sustain you?

Response: I will!

The Welcome of the Church (Members will stand and read)

We, the members of this Church, receive you into our fellowship with great joy. God grant you may find here a fellowship of love and service in which we all may work together as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward to our walk together in Christ.

Unison Prayer for One Another (from Ephesians 3:14a-21)

Loving and gracious God, we pray that out of the treasures of Your glory, you might grant us strength and power through the spirit in our inner being, that through faith Christ might dwell in our hearts in love. With deep roots and firm foundations, let us be strong to grasp-with all God's people-what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ to know what is beyond knowledge! Now to the one who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or even conceive, by the power that is at work among us, to that One be glory in the church, and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation evermore! Amen!

Extending the Right Hand of Fellowship