



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Tuesday, November 15, 2022

How to Join
Our Newly Combined
United Church of Christ of Robesonia

Dear Friend in Christ,

As you have hopefully heard, our vote on Sunday, November 13 for our two churches to form one new church was affirmative, which means moving on to the next stage of that coming together process.

We hope that all of the members of both of our two congregations will want to join this new church, including you. You are receiving this letter, because you are currently listed on the roles as a member of either Zion UCC or St. Paul's UCC, and we are hopeful that you would like to be a member of our newly unified United Church of Christ of Robesonia.

However, we do not wish to assume. We are asking every member their wishes, and we need to make sure that we have everyone's information up-to-date and accurate in our database and make sure we know in what way you would like to be engaged in ministry in our newly unified church.

The next step in forming our new church is for our current members to indicate their desire to be members of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia.

There are three steps involved in joining:

(1) Fill out and return the enclosed *household* and *individual* information sheets

(You can drop those off in person, mail, or email those forms)

(2) If you check that you would like to be "Active Member" on the individual information sheet,

we will give/send you a *Connections* sheet and a *Time & Talent* sheet,

which will help us to best connect with you and how to best serve Christ with you

(You can drop those off in person, mail, or email those forms)

We are waiting to provide these additional sheets: one, so we do not overwhelm you with too many forms at one time; and two, so we do not print out papers unnecessarily for those not interested in joining (but again, we do hope that everyone will be wanting to join this great new church we are creating together).

(3) After those are returned, you will be invited to affirm your membership in worship during one of our upcoming "Joining Worship Services."

(Please indicate on the individual information sheet in which service you would like to participate)

When all three steps are completed, we will record your membership in our new membership book as having had joined by "Letter of Transfer."

The first opportunity to affirm membership will be Sunday, January 8, 2023 during our “Opening Worship Service” of our combined new church. We will be offering at least one worship opportunity to affirm membership each month, including at least one evening worship service. For those living out of the area, are away at college, who have mobility limitations, COVID concerns, illness, and the like, there will also be opportunities to join via Zoom.

Anyone who joins from January 1 through April 30, 2023 will be listed among the “Charter Members” (i.e. the Founding Members) of the new church.

We of course are also hopeful of others beyond our two congregations will also be interested in joining. If you know of someone who would be interested, please contact the church office, one of the pastors, or one of the current consistory members.

For those who are not interested in joining our new church as a member at this time. The following are other options.

Other Membership Options:

- (1) If instead of joining the new United Church of Christ of Robesonia, you would like to join another church instead, we will of course be saddened to see you go and hope that you will feel welcome to come back from time to time to visit, but wish you well, and would offer you a Letter of Transfer as the proper process to transfer your spiritual care to the care of another congregation. Please let us know the name and address of the church.
- (2) If you would still like to be affiliated with the United Church of Christ of Robesonia, but are not at this time interested in being an active member, you can check “Friend of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia” instead of active member on the information sheet.
- (3) If you would like your primary membership to be in another congregation, but would still like to be actively involved, supporting, serving, and worshipping with our new church, then you may check “Associate Member” on the information sheet.
- (4) All of our homebound members, unless they desire otherwise, are automatically receiving a Letter of Transfer to the new United Church of Christ of Robesonia and should not be receiving this letter. If you believe you should be on the Homebound Member list, please indicate that on the information sheet.

We will be reaching out multiple times to members in the upcoming months. Please inform us sooner rather than later, as that will save your church postage, as we will therefore not need to reach out multiple times. We will assume that those who do not choose one of the above membership options by April 30, 2022 are withdrawing their membership from the Christian Church.

The information sheets are also important, because we will be combining our two databases into one, and it will help our secretarial staff to have this information from you readily available on these sheets to double check and update any incorrect or missing information.

If you have any questions about membership options, please contact the church office, so that we may assist you.

Yours In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin D. Motz,
Pastor and Teacher

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest,
Pastor and Teacher

What Is It That I Am Affirming?

On the following page, you will find many words. Those words include our new church's Vision Statement, Discipleship Statement, Membership Vows, and by-law Membership Expectations. The words used during the worship service are those of the "Membership Vows."

Normally the Pastor will go over the vows with those considering membership prior to taking their vows, either in a New Member Class or individually. For this process of reaffirmation, we are simply sending them to you. Please prayerfully read over the words on the following page, and we invite you to contact the Pastor or a church Elder if you have any questions about the promises you are about to make as you reaffirm your faith into our newly unified church.

Undoubtedly, after you read that page, you will not have memorized all of those words. Within the new church, we have condensed those many words into four simple memorable phrases, which we can use for self reflection, focus of ministry, and mutual encouragement in a living, growing life of Christian discipleship, as a member of the United Church of Christ of Robesonia. Those four phrases in our Discipleship Statement:

*outwardly serving,
upwardly worshiping,
inwardly growing,
together connecting*

The expectation is throughout the year, every able-bodied member will be:

- (1) outwardly serving through their church, that helps connect others in a living relationship with a loving God;
- (2) upwardly worshiping in a way that helps connect themselves and others to God (for those who cannot participate in person, we will continue to offer a variety of virtual options);
- (3) inwardly growing spiritually, in ways beyond corporate worship, where we are connected with others through prayer and study of scripture, helping one another grow in greater knowledge and understanding of scripture and greater depth of spirit.

We invite you to prayerfully reflect: How is God leading me to outwardly serve, upwardly worship, inwardly grow, and together connect through my new church throughout 2023?

Worship Opportunities to Reaffirm My Christian Discipleship
and Join the United Church of Christ of Robesonia

Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 10:15am
Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 10:15am
Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30pm
Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 10:15am
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 6:30pm
Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 10:15am

Vision Statement:

For All to be Connected in a Living Relationship with the Loving God.

Discipleship Statement:

*As a disciple of Christ,
I am well grounded in faith when I am....
outwardly serving,
upwardly worshiping,
inwardly growing,
together connecting
all to the Body of Christ.*



All members strive to participate in the following three areas of Christian discipleship in ways that *connects* themselves and others in a growing and living relationship with God through this church, “joined and knit together,” “building up the Body of Christ in Christian love” (*adapt. Ephesians 4:11-16*):.

- service** - annually serving God through the church
- worship** - regularly participating in corporate worship through the church
- growth** - throughout the year growing in personal faith and discipleship beyond corporate worship (i.e. Bible study, Sunday school, prayer group, scripture discussion in Youth Group or Abide Groups, etc)

Membership Vows:

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

I do.

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

I do.

**Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciple,
to follow in the way of our Saviour,
to resist oppression and evil,
to show love and justice,
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?**

I promise, with the help of God.

**Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith
and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ,
celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering Christ’s mission in all the world.**

I promise, with the help of God.

**Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God’s people,
sharing regularly in the worship of God
and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?**

I promise, with the help of God.

Membership Duties from the Bylaws:

It is the duty of all members to take an active part in all the functions of the Church for the glory of God possible, and the uplift of humankind. This includes:

- (1) regular attendance at divine worship services;
- (2) regular participation in study services (such as Bible study or Sunday school);
- (3) fervent prayer for the welfare of the Church;
- (4) a Family Altar and daily devotions in the home (a sacred place and time in which the family prays together);
- (5) careful attention to the religious training of the Youth;
- (6) liberal financial and moral support toward local maintenance and benevolent undertakings of the church, including Our Church’s Wider Mission;
- (7) obedience to the church’s established law and authorities;
- (8) untiring zeal in bringing the unchurched under the church’s influence;
- (9) a spirit of Christian Love toward all her members; and
- (10) membership and active participation in the organizations of the Church wherever possible.

It is the responsibility of all members to provide the Consistory through the Office Secretary or Consistory Secretary their current contact information, including: physical address, mailing address, phone number, and electronic mail address.