

Membership

at Minden United Church, Zion United Church & Maple Lake United Church
in the Highland Hills Pastoral Charge

Becoming a member of The United Church of Canada is an act of welcoming, blessing, and belonging. For children, membership takes place after a time of study usually involving a confirmation class. At the end of the time of study, a child is baptised, if the child has not already been baptised as an infant, and then confirmed in the church. Adults may also participate in confirmation studies and baptism if these have not happened in the past. Usually for adults, the three most common ways of becoming a member is to either transfer from another church, make a profession of faith or a reaffirmation of faith.

Transferring one's membership from another church is an option when the individual is in good standing at the church from which the transfer will take place. Ex: Mary used to live in Toronto and now lives in Carnarvon. She was a member at Toronto United Church and attended services fairly regularly. Very likely, Mary's membership at Toronto United Church would be in good standing. She decides that she really likes Zion United Church and the people who worship there and would like to become a member. She could transfer her membership. If an individual was from another recognized Christian denomination, also with membership in good standing, that person would be eligible to transfer not only church congregations but also denominations. Transfer is not an option if an individual's membership has lapsed.

Making a profession of faith or a reaffirmation of faith to become a member is made easy and straight forward on the Highland Hills Pastoral Charge. We use the United Church's New Creed and / or A Song of Faith as a guide to what we believe. One desiring to make a profession of faith or a reaffirmation of faith must be in essential agreement with at least one the creed or the statement of faith.

A New Creed can be found at...

<http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>

A Song of Faith can be found at...

<http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/statements>

During a regular Sunday morning worship service, new members are received and welcomed into the congregation using a special inserted membership ritual. A sample of this ritual can be downloaded from our Pastoral Charge webpage...

<http://home.interhop.net/highhills/documents.htm>

At this service, the entire congregation will make a commitment to the ongoing nurture and support of the new member's faith and spiritual growth.

Membership proclaims the unconditional grace and love of God. It is also a reminder of the new and wonder-filled responsibilities that come with being a member. For adults, membership represents a renewed commitment to living and growing in faith as well as full acceptance into the benefits and responsibilities of church life. Members enjoy the benefit and responsibility of voting rights at church meetings and also sharing one's various talents and gifts.

In the Highland Hills Pastoral Charge, we uphold a theology of inclusion and welcome all who wish to embrace a path of living demonstrated by the words and deeds of Jesus Christ—one of truth, justice, peace, and unconditional love.

Please contact us to arrange an appointment with our minister.

To be reviewed and revised by the Charge Worship Committee as needed. Last revised: November 2009