

Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God

#1 ~ God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

We believe in one God, the Father, eternally existing, who is a Spirit, a personal Being of supreme intelligence, knowledge, love, justice, power and authority. He, through Jesus Christ, is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He is the Source of life and the One for whom human life exists.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who is the Word and has eternally existed. We believe that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the divine Son of the living God, **conceived of the Holy Spirit**, born in the human flesh of the virgin Mary.

We believe that it is by Him that God created all things and that without Him was not anything made that was made. **We believe in the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of God and of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the power of God and the Spirit of life eternal.**

We believe in one God, the Father, eternally existing, who is a Spirit, a personal Being of supreme intelligence, knowledge, love, justice, power and authority.	1 Cor. 8:6 “yet for us there is only one God, the Father...” Eph. 4:6 “one God and Father of all...” Dan. 7:13 “One like the Son of Man...came to the Ancient of Days...” John 4:24 “God is Spirit...” 1 John 4:16 “...God is love...” John 5:30 “...the will of the Father who sent Me.” John 14:23-24 “...If anyone loves Me, ...My Father will love him...” 1 Cor. 15:27-28 “...He has put all things under His feet... But...it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.”
He, through Jesus Christ, is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He is the Source of life and the One for whom human life exists.	John 1:1-4 “...the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...All things were made through Him...In Him was life...” Eph. 3:9 “...God who created all things through Jesus Christ...” Col. 1:15-17 “...For by Him all things were created...” John 5:26 “...as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.”
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who is the Word and has eternally existed.	1 Cor. 8:6 “yet for us there is only...one Lord Jesus Christ...” John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,” Ex. 3:14-15 “...I AM...” with John 8:58 “...before Abraham was, I AM.” See also: John 18:5 “...Jesus of Nazareth...I am He...” 1 Cor. 10:4 “...that spiritual Rock...and that Rock was Christ.”
We believe that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the divine Son of the living God, conceived of the Holy Spirit , born in the human flesh of the virgin Mary.	Matt. 1:18, 21-25 “...the birth of Jesus Christ... Mary...was found with child of the Holy Spirit ...a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus...” John 1:14 “...the Word became flesh...the only begotten of the Father.” Matt. 16:15-17, 20 and John 6:69 “...But who do you say that I am? ... You are the Christ, the Son of the living God ... Jesus the Christ.” Matt. 27:43 and John 10:36 “...I am the Son of God.”
We believe that it is by Him that God created all things and that without Him was not anything made that was made.	John 1:3, 10 “All things were made through Him...” Col. 1:16 “...by Him all things were created...” Heb. 1:2 “...His Son...through whom also He made the worlds;”
We believe in the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of God and of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the power of God and the Spirit of life eternal.	Isa. 11:2 “The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him...” Acts 10:38 “God anointed Jesus...with the Holy Spirit and with power,” Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” 2 Tim. 1:7-8 “...a spirit...of power...the power of God,” Luke 1:35 “...The Holy Spirit...the power of the Highest...” Rom. 8:10-11, 16 “...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus...dwells in you...He...will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit...”

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#8 ~ Repentance and Faith

We believe that all who truly repent of their sins in full surrender and willing obedience to God, and who by faith accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, have their sins forgiven by an act of divine grace. Such individuals are justified, pardoned from the penalty of sin, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which literally abides within them and supplies the divine love that alone can fulfill the law and produce righteousness. They are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ, which is the true Church of God.

We believe in a true change in life and attitude. Only those who have the indwelling presence of and are being led by the Holy Spirit are Christ's.

We believe that all who truly repent of their sins	Psa. 51:1-19 [David's prayer of repentance] Luke 18:13 "...God be merciful to me a sinner!" 2 Cor. 7:9-10 "... your sorrow led to repentance... For godly sorrow produces repentance <i>leading</i> to salvation, not to be regretted; ..."
in full surrender and willing obedience to God,	Phil. 2:3-5 "...Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," Psa. 119:10 "With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!"
and who by faith accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior,	John 11:25-27 "...He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live...Do you believe this?" ...Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ..." 1 John 4:14-16 "...Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God..."
have their sins forgiven by an act of divine grace. Such individuals are justified, pardoned from the penalty of sin,	Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore...that your sins may be blotted out..." Rom. 3:21-26 "...being justified freely by His grace...because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were...committed..." Rom. 6:6 "...our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." Eph. 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." (Eph. 2:8)
and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,	Acts 2:36-39 "...Repent/be baptized/receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 5:32 "...the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey..."
which literally abides within them	John 14:16-17 "...the Spirit of truth...dwells with you and will be in you."
and supplies the divine love that alone can fulfill the law and produce righteousness.	Rom. 5:5 "...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Rom. 8:4 "that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Rom. 13:10 "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."
They are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ, which is the true Church of God.	1 Cor. 12:12-13 "...For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"
We believe in a true change in life and attitude.	2 Cor. 5:17 "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." Rom. 6:4 "...buried with Him through baptism...that just as Christ was raised from the dead...even so we also should walk in newness of life." Eph. 2:22-24 "...put off the old man...put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."
Only those who have the indwelling presence of and are being led by the Holy Spirit are Christ's.	Rom. 8:9-10 "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His... And if Christ is in you...the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Rom. 8:14 "...as many as are led by the Spirit of God...are sons of God."

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#9 ~ Water Baptism and the Laying on of Hands

We believe in the ordinance of water baptism by immersion following repentance. Through the laying on of hands, with prayer, the believer receives the Holy Spirit and becomes a part of the spiritual body of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the ordinance of water baptism	<p>Matt. 3:13-16 “Then Jesus came...to be baptized...Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water...”</p> <p>Matt. 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples...baptizing them...”</p> <p>Acts 2:38 “...let every one of you be baptized...”</p> <p>Acts 8:12 “When they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”</p> <p>Heb. 6:1 “...the elementary principles of Christ...the foundation of...the doctrine of baptisms...”</p>
by immersion	<p>John 3:23 “Now John...was baptizing in Aenon...because there was much water there...”</p> <p>Acts 8:38-39 “...both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water...”</p> <p>Rom. 6:4 “...we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead...even so we should walk in newness of life.”</p>
following repentance.	<p>Matt. 3:6 “and were baptized by him [John]...confessing their sins.”</p> <p>Acts 2:38 “...Repent, and let every one of you be baptized...”</p>
Through the laying on of hands, with prayer,	<p>Acts 8:14-17 “...Peter and John...prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ... Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”</p> <p>Heb. 6:2 “of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands...”</p>
the believer	<p>Mark 1:15 “...the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe...”</p> <p>Mark 16:16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; ...”</p> <p>Acts 8:12 “When they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”</p> <p>Acts 8:36-37 “...What hinders me from being baptized? Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”</p>
receives the Holy Spirit	<p>Acts 2:38 “...be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”</p> <p>Acts 5:32 “...the Holy Spirit...God has given to those who obey Him.”</p> <p>Acts 19:5-6 “...they were baptized...and when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them...”</p>
and becomes a part of the spiritual body of Jesus Christ.	<p>1 Cor. 12:12-13 “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”</p> <p>Eph. 5:30, 32 “For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones...I speak concerning Christ and the church.”</p> <p>Col. 2:12-13 “buried with Him in baptism...raised with Him through faith...made alive together with Him...”</p>