


Confirmation Service

Re-affirmation of Baptism & Admission to Church Membership

For those baptized at some time in the past who come to make their own confession of Christian faith and enter into the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of Christ's Church. The service follows after the reading of Scripture and the sermon or another form of proclamation of the Word.

Two forms of re-affirmation for baptismal promises are included in number 3, and two others may be found in the Basis of Union, Schedule A. These are the only forms authorised for use by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.

- 
1. Introduction
 2. Proclamation of Faith
 3. The Affirmations
 4. Statement or Testimony
 5. The Promises
 6. The Confirmation, or Strengthening in Faith
 7. Welcome

1. Introduction

By the sacrament of baptism we are all made one in the Body of Christ. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live as the people of God and to serve God's purpose. In baptism God says "Yes" to us. Today, in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit, N comes to affirm *her/his* baptism, to say "Yes" to God, to make *her/his* own profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and to be received into the full privileges and responsibilities of membership of Christ's Church. By confirmation *she/he* is promised the strengthening of the Holy Spirit so that *she/he* may be a faithful follower of Christ and member of his Church.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

John 15: 5, 7-9, 16-17

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2: 19-22.

2. The Proclamation of Faith

A large candle, such as an Easter (Paschal) candle, may be lit.

Let us proclaim the faith of the Church through the ages:

The Apostles' or Nicene Creed (R&S 759, 760) or Statement of Faith of the United Reformed Church (Basis of Union, para.17 or para.18) may be used, or a hymn of faith sung (e.g. R&S 36, 37, 73, 272, 283, 755).

3. The Affirmations

The elder responsible for her/his pastoral care or another sponsor may present the candidate to the congregation with appropriate introduction.

Either:

N, you have come in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit to confess your faith in Christ.

Do you believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
maker of heaven and earth,
giver of life, redeemer of the world?

I do.

Do you repent of your sins, turn away from evil,
and turn to Christ?

By God's grace, I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

I do.

or

a form including the following elements:

- *a Trinitarian confession of faith*
- *repentance of sin*
- *confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.*

4. Statement or Testimony

A short statement or testimony may be given by the person to be confirmed.

5. The Promises

N has made confession of *her/his* faith.
Now *she/he* is to make *her/his* promises
as *she/he* is received into the full privileges
and responsibilities of Church membership.

From the beginning,
believers have continued
in the worship and fellowship
of the Church.

N, do you commit yourself to this life?
I do, with God's help.

Do you accept the gift and cost
of following Christ
in your daily life and work?
I do, with God's help.

With the whole Church,
will you proclaim by word and action
the good news of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

*Or a form may be used including a promise to share in the
worship, fellowship and mission of the Church.*

Promise by the congregation

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church,
do you welcome N and promise to share with *her/him*
what you yourselves have received,
the gift of God's love revealed in Christ?

We do, with God's help.

6. The Confirmation, or Strengthening in Faith

The minister may touch the ears and mouth of the person to be confirmed:

N, may the Lord open your eyes to see his glory,
your ears to receive his word
and your mouth to proclaim his praise.

Come now to receive the laying on of hands with prayer
to strengthen you for the work of God.

The candidate may kneel or stand for a moment of silent prayer. The minister and at least one elder place their hands on her/his head as the minister prays:

God of all grace confirm and strengthen N
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
that *she/he* may be your servant in the world
and see your glory in the world to come.

Amen.

The minister may anoint the newly-confirmed member with oil as a symbol of the anointing of God's Holy Spirit.

All sing or say the Aaronic blessing (R&S 420)

The newly-confirmed member stands.

7. Welcome

N, by baptism you have been received into membership
of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
You have now affirmed your baptism
and confessed your faith in Jesus Christ
as your Saviour and Lord.
You have accepted the privileges
and responsibilities of membership of the Church.
In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the only head of the Church,
and in accordance with the decision
of this local church meeting,

we welcome you into membership
of this congregation of the United Reformed Church.
May your sharing in our life together
bring blessing to you and to us all.

*One of the following texts, or another appropriate to the
newly-confirmed member, may be used.*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

For once you were darkness, but now in Lord you are light.
Live as children of light – for everything that becomes visible
is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the
dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

Ephesians 5:8, 14

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound
and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

*The minister and elder(s) may give the right hand of fellowship
as a sign of welcome. A Bible, or other appropriate book, and
a Confirmation certificate may be presented.*

**In the name of Christ we welcome you.
May we grow together in unity,
and be built up into the body of Christ in love,
to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

*The service continues with the Lord's Supper. The new
member(s) may bring forward the bread and wine.*

*After the dismissal and blessing the minister (and elders) may
lead the new member(s) through the church and members of
the congregation may be encouraged to greet them.*