

Litany for New Member Sunday
Karen and Frank Dietz

Greetings

Rev. Ginny

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the Church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the Church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Scripture

Bill Beardall

Hear the words of Jesus: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, will bear much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Thanksgiving and Remembrance

Rev. Ginny

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the Church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

UCC Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Invitation

Rev. Ginny

We invite those wishing to join the Congregational Church of Austin as affiliate members to come forward in spirit, as ones who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

Questions for New Members

Rev. Ginny Friends, do you desire to become a member of the Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ? *I do.*

Bill Beardall Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able? *I promise, with the help of God.*

Pam Tucker Do you promise to share your joys and happiness as best as you are able with God and the Congregational Church of Austin community, trusting that we will celebrate with you in the joyous moments of your life? *I promise with the help of God.*

Kevin Dietz Do you promise to share your pain and struggles as best as you are able with God and the Congregational Church of Austin community, trusting that we will walk alongside of you during the difficult moments of life? *I promise with the help of God.*

Lucy Erda Do you promise to celebrate the joyous moments in the lives of the Congregational Church of Austin, trusting that we will rejoice with you? *I promise with the help of God.*

Pat Oakes Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to be a faithful member of the Congregational Church of Austin, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world? *I promise, with the help of God.*

Roberto Hernández Do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and to participate in the life and mission of Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ, by sharing, challenging, encouraging, helping, supporting, and loving your neighbors in this community? *I promise, with the help of God.*

Questions for the Congregational Church of Austin, UCC, from the New Members

Do you promise to celebrate and walk alongside me as I become a member of Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ? *We do.*

Do you promise to encourage, challenge, nurture, be honest, and always love me as I become a member of the Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ? *We do.*

Welcome and Reception

Let us, the members and friends of the Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ, stand as we are able in body or spirit and welcome Karen and Frank Dietz into our community.

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

Congregational Church of Austin family