

Assuming that you are ready to move forward with joining the church, here is some further instruction.

When someone decides to join the church, they take on vows. These vows are made in public; in front of the congregation during the worship service.

During the worship service, the pastor will announce that we will be taking new members into the church. The congregation usually gets excited when this takes place. They like to see new members come and join the church. It is a compliment to them. The pastor will invite you to come up to the altar one person or one family at a time. Do NOT be surprised if the people applaud as you come forward. Again, they love to see new people join the church. Once you have been introduced, wait there at the altar for the rest of the new members to be introduced. Once everyone is assembled up front, the pastor will ask you a number of questions. The pastor will say/ask:

“On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the Spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?”

If you do, you are to respond: “I do.”

The pastor will then ask: “Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”

If you do, you are to respond: “I do.”

The pastor will then ask: “Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races?”

If you do, you are to respond: “I do.”

The pastor will then turn to the congregation and ask them to make a vow and promise on YOUR behalf.

The pastor will then say to the

the congregation:

“Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day receive into membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.”

The congregation will say: “We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.”

The pastor will then say to you and the rest of the congregation: “God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy spirit bless, preserve, and keep you, now and evermore. Amen.”

At this point you will be welcomed to return to your seats.