

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

INTRODUCTION BY THE MENTORING SPONSORS

PASTOR:

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Sharell and Frank, who are joining the ECC faith community today 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 Jesus and the members of this church. They are here for service to Christ Jesus, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:19-22

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor:

Sharell and Frank, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? If so please answer with, "I do."

Candidates:

I do.

Deacon:

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Jesus Christ? If so, please answer with, "I do."

Candidates:

I do.

Deacon:

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. If so please answer with, "I promise, with the help of God."

Candidates:

I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor:

Do you promise according to God's graciousness, freely given, to continue to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating God's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidates:

I promise, with the help of God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor To The Congregation:

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

All: I believe in God.

Deacon: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Deacon: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

ADDRESS

Pastor:

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, to all those who have guided you spiritually, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith, Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

QUESTION TO CANDIDATES ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Deacon:

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? If so, please answer with, "I promise, with the help of God."

Candidates:

I promise with the help of God.

***WELCOME AND RECEPTION** *(those who are able, please stand)*

Pastor:

Let us, the members and friends of Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Jesus Christ.

All:

We welcome you with joy to the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share our 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.

(congregation please be seated)

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Pastor and Deacon:

In the name of Christ Jesus and on behalf of Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this beautiful and faith-filled church community.

PRAYER

Pastor:

Loving and Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the Body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in our church here today and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together, may we live in the Holy Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

All:

Amen and Amen.

(The certificates and gifts are given.)