

## Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church

With the whole Christian Church  
the United Reformed Church believes in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**The living God, the only God,  
ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called  
is the Spirit's gift  
continually received  
through the Word, the Sacraments  
and our Christian life together.

**We acknowledge the gift  
and answer the call,  
giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority  
for what we believe and do  
is God's Word in the Bible  
alive for his people today  
through the help of the Spirit.

**We respond to this Word,  
whose servants we are  
with all God's people  
through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God  
the witness to the catholic faith  
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.  
We acknowledge the declarations  
made in our own tradition  
by Congregationalists, Presbyterians  
and Churches of Christ  
in which they stated the faith  
and sought to make its implications clear.

**Faith alive and active:  
gift of an eternal source,  
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together  
according to the Basis of Union  
in which we give expression to our faith  
in forms which we believe contain

the essential elements of the Church's life,  
both catholic and reformed;  
but we affirm our right and readiness,  
if the need arises,  
to change the Basis of Union  
and to make new statements of faith  
in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

**Our crucified and risen Lord,  
who leads us in our faith  
and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ  
through the freedom of the Spirit,  
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts  
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.  
For the sake of faith and fellowship  
it shall be for the church to decide  
where differences of conviction  
hurt our unity and peace.

**We commit ourselves  
to speak the truth in love  
and grow together  
in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that  
Christ gives his Church a government  
distinct from the government of the state.  
In things that affect obedience to God  
the Church is not subordinate to the state,  
but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ,  
its only Ruler and Head.  
Civil authorities are called  
to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind,  
and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**While we ourselves  
are servants in the world  
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention  
to go on praying and working,  
with all our fellow Christians,  
for the visible unity of the Church  
in the way Christ chooses  
so that people and nations  
may be led to love and serve God  
and praise him more and more for ever.

**Source, Guide, and Goal  
of all that is:  
to God be eternal glory.  
Amen.**