



HOLY COMMUNION POLICY

This policy represents the intention of Central United Church (Central) in the conduct of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND BELIEF

Central is a duly constituted Community of Faith (COF) of The United Church of Canada (UCC) and, as such, is part of the Protestant Reformed Tradition. In this tradition, the elements that are used in Holy Communion do not “transubstantiate” into the real body and blood of Christ, but always remain symbolic. However, the symbolism is transformative. It connects us, in a deep and profound way, to God, to the life-saving work of Jesus and to each other. The Sacrament provides an opportunity for deep personal reflection on the meaning of Christ’s sacrifice while providing hope in the anticipation of His return. When we partake as one in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we are invited to participate in the honouring of His name.

As stated in A Song of Faith, a Statement of Faith of The United Church of Canada (2006), “we welcome all in the name of Christ, invited to the Table where none shall go hungry; we gather as Christ’s guests and friends in Holy Communion. We are commissioned to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved.”

Holy Communion is one of the most reverent moments in our walk of faith. In Communion, we are called by Jesus to be in unity with one another and with Him. The Sacrament also serves as a memorial meal in remembrance of Him and a foreshadowing of the Messianic banquet to come.

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:26-28 (NRSV)



POLICY

- (a) The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a Christian sacrament.
- (b) Ours is an “open” Table. All persons, whether members of Central or not and whether baptized or not, are welcome to partake. All children, with parental consent, are welcome to partake as well.
- (c) The Minister(s) of Central conduct the service, consecrating the elements.
- (d) At the discretion of the Worship Team, two methods of serving can be used:
 - Community Communion in which the elements are served to the community.
 - Intinction in which the community comes to be fed, receiving the bread and dipping it in a common cup.
- (e) At a minimum, Communion will be scheduled in the morning service at the commencement of the Advent Season, Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, the commencement of the Lenten Season and World-Wide Communion Sunday. The schedule for serving Communion is established by the Worship Team and may be changed at its discretion.
- (f) As a minimum, Communion will be scheduled bi-monthly for the evening Celebrate Life Recovery Service.
- (g) The Worship Team will ensure that a gluten-free option for bread is always offered.
- (h) As is common practice in the UCC, wine will not be used in Communion services.

ADMINISTRATION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is overseen by The Worship Team and administered by an appointed Communion Team.

This policy document is a living document and can be changed at any time by the Worship Team, with the approval of the Board.

The Board will inform the congregation about the policies that have been established by the Board and will seek ratification of each policy change at an Annual Congregational Meeting.

Final Draft Approved by the Board, June 10th, 2018