

Prayer List

- Of Our Number
- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
 - ♦ Jennifer Derrick—health problems
 - ♦ Larry Derrick—health problems
 - ♦ Rick Hemphill—dental procedures
 - ♦ Jeff Mashburn—blood press. issues

- Others in Need
- ♦ Francis Adams—health problems
 - ♦ Terri Adams—cancer
 - ♦ Glen Brooks—clot in carotid artery
 - ♦ Fran Carlos—back surgery
 - ♦ Sheila Cole—health problems
 - ♦ Louise Douglas—health problems
 - ♦ Kim Dunn—cancer
 - ♦ Joyce Faulk—health problems
 - ♦ Jennifer Foxworth-health problems
 - ♦ Annette Garrett - Non-H. lymphoma
 - ♦ Lucinda Lingor—heart problems
 - ♦ Jerry Madden—cancer
 - ♦ Paul Mays—Lyme disease
 - ♦ Dan Sikes—back pain, surgery
 - ♦ Michael Totoro—cancer

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in Pakistan and certain parts of India.
- ♦ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, the lost, enemies.
- ♦ Pray for our evangelistic efforts and for more opportunities.

Events

If the Lord wills...

- August 2
Meal after AM Worship
- August 9
Monthly Men's Meeting

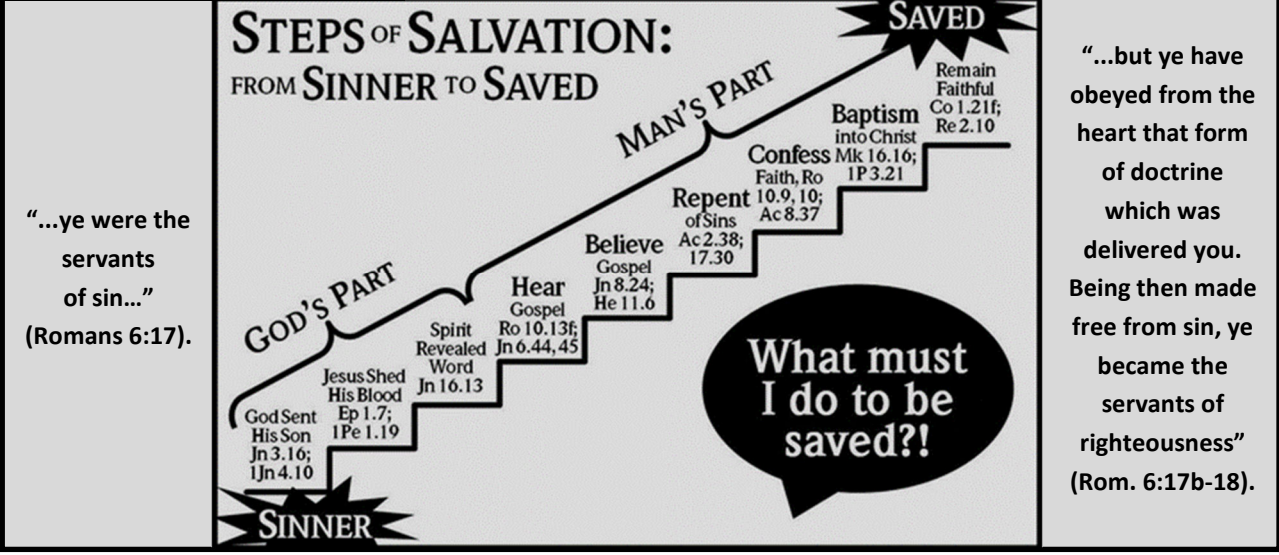
Faithful Worship — 1) Praying to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Php. 4:6); 2) Singing without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); 3) Preaching God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); 4) Giving weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); 5) The Lord's Supper on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

To Our Visitors

We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Mark Howze
Song Leading: Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
Head: Leo Derrick; Helpers: Caleb Howze, Glenn Howze, Jacob Mashburn
Lord's Supper PM
Head: Leo Derrick
Helper: Trey Miles
Bible Reading: Rick Hemphill



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of
The church of Christ in Baker, FL

July 26, 2026

Meeting Times

- Sundays:
- 10AM Bible Class
 - 11AM Worship
 - 6PM Worship
- Wednesdays:
- 7PM Bible Class

Other Information

Building: 5761 Hwy. 4
Mail: P.O. Box 285
Baker, FL 32531 USA
850-669-9117
Website:
churchofChristatBaker.com
Radio Program:
104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM
WAAZ1047.com livestream
Jason Hilburn's Info:
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The "United Church of Christ" and the Church of Christ Are Not the Same!

By David B. Smith

Lately, several people have asked about the organization known as the United Church of Christ. The group has been in the headlines for the last few months because of its endorsement of the homosexual agenda. Its Synod met recently and passed a resolution to approve same-sex marriages. One source suggested that approval rating in the membership for the decision is about eighty percent. That is, the majority of the membership favors "gay marriage." Naturally people are curious about the group since "Church of Christ" is a part of the organization's title. Some members of the Lord's church (the church of Christ) have been asked about the approval of "gay marriage," as if the United Church of Christ and the church of Christ are the same. One dear sister was even asked by a co-worker what she would do now that "her church" was endorsing homosexuality. They are not the same, and people need to know the difference.

The United Church of Christ was founded in the late 1950s. The easiest way to describe the group is by drawing attention to other groups. Think of the controversy surrounding the Episcopalian religion not long ago because it confirmed a known homosexual to oversee a diocese. People thought, "they

are definitely a liberal group.” If it can be imagined, amplify the liberalism of groups like the Episcopalians or the Disciples of Christ and you will have an idea what the United Church of Christ is like. Their endorsement of homosexuality alone should say something about this newly-formed denomination.

The group is organized by human standards. Mead records the structure of the organization, stating:

Beside the local church stands the associations, conferences, and the general synod. Local churches in a geographic area are grouped into an association.... Associations are grouped into conferences.... It meets annually, and its main function is to coordinate the work and witness of its local churches and associations, to render counsel and advisory service, and to establish conference offices, centers, institutions, and other agencies (290).

Synods, presidents, clergy/laity distinctions, conferences, and such like clearly distinguish the United Church of Christ from the church built by the Lord in organization. The UCC is a man-made organization ruled by men; the church of the Christ is a divine organism guided by its head Jesus the Christ. For the friends and neighbors who ask, please show them the biblical basis for true organization—in order for them to understand that the UCC is just the work of a man. The statement made in Acts 14:23 is a good starting point: “And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they be lieved.” In every individual congregation, the apostles appointed a plurality of qualified men (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-11) to oversee, protect, and feed the local flock (Acts 20:28; 1 The. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-3). The words used of these men—“pastors,” “overseers,” “elders,” or “bishops”—merely describe their role within the local church. This is important for several reasons. For one, it establishes the autonomy of each local congregation. No eldership or congregation has the oversight of another. The government is self-contained. Remember that the church is a divine monarchy, so the ultimate source of authority is the Christ. While the actions of each congregation are certainly open for scrutiny (Rev. 2-3), there is no earthly headquarters to which local congregations report. Their king is in heaven, not on earth. Next, it shows that scriptural organization requires a plurality of “pastor/elders” and not one. The very idea of “one pastor over a church” (denomination) or “one man (pope) on earth over all congregations” (Catholicism) is the same corrupted doctrine that spawned a great apostasy in the mid-second century A.D. In local churches, there are also to be deacons (Phi. 1:1). While their work is not equal to that of an eldership, it is no less important. The qualifications (1 Tim. 3:8-13) and the name itself describe their important work—the work of service. Yet

everyone is important in the Lord’s body. There are no “clergy/laity” separations; this is foreign to the Word of God. Elders, deacons, and all members of the church of the Christ are members one of another. This pattern is not evident in the United Church of Christ, thus it bears no connection to the true Lord’s church.

Those interested in an in-depth study of the UCC should reference the organization’s self-published materials, especially the sections that detail the documents they consider authoritative. It is certain that in the UCC, man-made documents and creeds get high praise and attention on par with the Bible. Councils (like the Nicaean Council of A.D. 325) are accepted as God-ordained which demonstrates the Catholic roots of the group. However, the Lord teaches that His people have no rule of faith and practice but the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The New Testament is the “once-for-all” delivered pattern for the church (Jude 3), and it provides all the necessary guidance for “life and godliness” (2 Pet. 1:3). Everything man needs to know to serve God faithfully in this life is provided in the Bible. Accordingly, no group is “of” God if it does not follow the book God gave. While the UCC might be glad to say *Bible*, it does not consider the Bible to be an objective and exclusive source of authority. That is the difference between the UCC and the church of Christ.

Another notable difference between the two is the UCC’s use of women in the role that God gave specifically to men. Many preachers for the UCC are female. Yet the Bible is clear: “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence” (1 Tim. 2:12). God designated men to lead in spiritual matters (1 Tim. 2:8-15). This is also a difference between the Lord’s church and the United Church of Christ denomination.

Other notable differences include the UCC’s tolerance toward unethical activities, their employment of unauthorized innovations in worship (like mechanical instruments of music), their founding date/place, their corrupted plan of salvation, et cetera. The point is that while the designations for both groups share some similarities, there is a world of difference between the two. It is unfortunate that the similarities have caused a bit of confusion, but it has also provided an opportunity to “give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). Since people are asking, why not take the chance to tell them about the true Lord’s church and at the same time voice opposition to the sinful practice of homosexuality? Surely this is redeeming the time and thus pleasing to God.

Work Cited

Mead, Frank S. *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1995.