

The United Church of Christ (UCC)

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a mainline Protestant Christian denomination in the United States known for its progressive stance on social justice issues.

- **Formation:** Formed in 1957 through the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches.
- **Roots:** Traces its roots back to the 17th-century Congregational churches of New England and the Reformed tradition in Europe.
- **Membership:** The UCC has approximately 4,600 churches and 712,000 members.
- *More info:* <https://www.ucc.org/>.

Core Beliefs:

- **Trinity:** Belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as the one God.
- **Scripture:** The Bible as the inspired word of God.
- **Salvation:** Salvation is received through grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Social Justice:** A strong emphasis on social justice and addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and environmental concerns.
- **Open and Affirming:** The UCC is known for its welcoming stance towards LGBTQ+ individuals and its support for same-sex marriage.

Practices and Rituals:

- **Worship Services:** Services vary widely, reflecting the diversity of the denomination.
- **Sacraments:** Baptism and Communion are considered sacraments.
- **Sunday School:** Provides religious education for all ages.
- **Social Justice Advocacy:** Active involvement in social justice issues through advocacy, volunteer work, and community outreach.

Leadership Structure:

- **Congregational:** Each congregation is autonomous and self-governing.
- **General Synod:** The highest governing body of the UCC.
- **Conference Ministers:** Provide support and guidance to local churches.

Main Symbols:

- **The Cross:** The cross remains a central symbol of Christian faith.
- **The Open Circle:** A symbol of inclusivity and the ongoing search for truth and meaning.