**From United Church of Christ & predecessor traditions' sources**

You call us into your church

* to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
* to be your servants in the service of others,
* to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,
* to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
* to join him in his passion and victory.

(United Church of Christ *Statement of Faith* [1959, rev. 1981 doxological edition])

We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ

* to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind,
* exalting the worship of the one true God,
* and laboring for the progress of knowledge,
* the promotion of justice, the reign of peace,
* and the realization of human brotherhood.

(*Kansas City Statement of Faith*, National Council of Congregational Churches, 1913.
Note that this language is used almost verbatim, with only minor edits for
inclusive language reasons, in our congregation's own *Church Covenant*)

92. What is the mission of the Church?  The mission of the Church is to extend the Kingdom of God, that is, to lead men to Christ and to establish Christian principles in every relation of life.

(*The Evangelical Catechism*, [German] Evangelical Synod of North America, 1929 edition)

We hold the Church to be established for calling men to repentance and faith, for the public worship of God, for the confession of His name by word and deed, for the administration of the sacraments, for witnessing to the saving grace of God in Christ, for the upbuilding of the saints, and for the universal propagation of the Gospel; and in the power of the love of God in Christ we labor for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood.

(*Basis of Union*, 1943 agreement between the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches
and the Evangelical and Reformed Church, in preparation for their eventual union as the United Church of Christ)

As people of the United Church of Christ, affirming our Statement of Faith, we seek within the Church Universal to participate in God's mission and to follow the way of the crucified and risen Christ.  Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called and commit ourselves:

* To praise God, confess our sin, and joyfully accept God's forgiveness;
* To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our suffering world;
* To embody God's Love for all people;
* To hear and give voice to creation's cry for justice and peace;
* To name and confront the powers of evil within and among us;
* To repent our silence and complicity with the forces of chaos and death;
* To preach and teach with the power of the living Word;
* To join oppressed and troubled people in the struggle for liberation;
* To work for justice, healing, and wholeness of life;
* To embrace the unity of Christ's church;
* To discern and celebrate the present and coming reign of God.

(United Church of Christ *Statement of Mission*, 1987;
drafted by a churchwide conference on mission and affirmed by General Synod 16 [1987])

*Purpose:*

To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

*Mission:*

United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

(United Church of Christ statements of purpose and mission, adopted by UCC Board of Directors, 2016)

**From full-communion partners / historically-related traditions**

WHAT IS THE CHURCH? The Church is an assembly of the faithful called or gathered out of the world; a communion, I say, of all saints, namely, of those who truly know and rightly worship and serve the true God in Christ the Savior, by the Word and Holy Spirit, and who by faith are partakers of all benefits which are freely offered through Christ.

(Second Helvetic Confession [1562, 1564], Chapter 17, as in *Book of Confessions* [PCUSA, 2016 ed.], 5.125)

6. *“Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matt. 28:20.) “The word of God is not fettered.” (II Tim. 2:9.)*

 The church’s commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ’s stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

 We reject the false doctrine, as though the church in human arrogance could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of any arbitrarily chosen desires, purposes, and plans.

(The Theological Declaration of Barmen [1934], as in *Book of Confessions* [PCUSA, 2016 ed.], 8.25-27)

In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ.

(*Book of Order* [PCUSA, 2015-2017 ed.], F-1.01)

[*In a section discussing the Church as Christ's body:*]

* The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.
* The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.
* The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.
* The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God’s transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

(*Book of Order* [PCUSA, 2015-2017 ed.], F-1.0301)

The Church is sent to be Christ’s faithful evangelist:

* making disciples of all nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
* sharing with others a deep life of worship, prayer, fellowship, and service; and
* participating in God’s mission to care for the needs of the sick, poor, and lonely; to free people from sin, suffering, and oppression; and to establish Christ’s just, loving, and peaceable rule in the world.

(*Book of Order* [PCUSA, 2015-2017 ed.], F-1.0302)

[I]n the power of the Spirit, the Church is faithful to the mission of Christ as it:

* *Proclaims and hears the Word of God*,
	+ responding to the promise of God’s new creation in Christ, and
	+ inviting all people to participate in that new creation;
* *Administers and receives the Sacraments*,
	+ welcoming those who are being engrafted into Christ,
	+ bearing witness to Christ’s saving death and resurrection,
	+ anticipating the heavenly banquet that is to come, and
	+ committing itself in the present to solidarity with the marginalized and the hungry; and
* *Nurtures a covenant community of disciples of Christ*,
	+ living in the strength of God’s promise and
	+ giving itself in service to God’s mission.

(*Book of Order* [PCUSA, 2015-2017 ed.], F-1.0303)

The great ends of the Church are:

* the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
* the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
* the maintenance of divine worship;
* the preservation of the truth;
* the promotion of social righteousness; and
* the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

(*Book of Order* [PCUSA, 2015-2017 ed.], F-1.0304)

The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

To participate in God’s mission, this church shall:

* a. Proclaim God’s saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ’s sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
* b. Carry out Christ’s Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
* c. Serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.
* d. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
* e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
* f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

(*Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, as adopted in 1987 and subsequently amended)

[W]e receive it as the will of Christ that His Church on earth should exist as a visible and sacred brotherhood, consisting of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, together with their children and other baptized children, and organized for the confession of His name, for the public worship of God, for the administration of the sacraments, for the upbuilding of the saints, and for the universal propagation of the Gospel[.]

(Basis of Union of the United Church of Canada, in *The Manual* of the United Church of Canada, 2016 ed., 2.3.15)

We are called to be the Church:

     to celebrate God’s presence,

     to live with respect in Creation,

     to love and serve others,

     to seek justice and resist evil,

     to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

          our judge and our hope.

(*A New Creed*, United Church of Canada, 1968, rev. 1980 & 1994)