

## ***Order for Reception of Members***

*We welcome Jolene Schmitz, Jeff and Beth Tischleder, and Christine Wing as they become official members of St. John's United Church of Christ.*

### ***Invitation and Welcome***

Pastor: We invite those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. They have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

### ***Sentences***

Pastor: Here the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments you will abide in love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

### ***Questions of the Candidates***

Pastor: Jolene, Jeff, Beth, and Chris, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Candidates: I do.**

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

**Candidates: I do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

### ***Address***

Pastor: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

### ***Question About Participation***

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

### ***Welcome and Reception***

*Members of the local church who are able may stand and say the following words of welcome.*

Pastor: Let us, the members of St John's United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

### ***Greeting of Christian Love***

**Pastor and Representatives: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of St. John's United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.**

### ***Prayer***

Pastor: Let us pray. O God. We praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered here at St. John's and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**All: AMEN.**