



We move in the hope ...
that God will provide us with light according to our need,
guidance according to the demands of the time,
and strength to the requirements of every situation.
Our hope is that we may keep ourselves enough out of the way
that God can move in and find us useable instruments for doing [God's] will.

— Fred Hoskins, “A Union of Hope,” *Uniting General Synod, 1957*

NOW IS THE TIME TO SHINE. Whether you are new or are a life-timer to the United Church of Christ, you and your congregation have something vital to celebrate. The UCC is 50 years bold!

God has been doing amazing things through this church. Always seeking to be led by Christ, we have sought to embrace others in our fellowship; to be enlivened by worship, scripture, prayer, and sacraments; and to unite with others in working for God's reign of justice and love.

Now, as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our founding Synod, it is time to remember and reflect on the gifts and challenges of our past. As we look toward the future, we see that this is also a time to prayerfully, attentively, listen for God's still-speaking voice. We pray again with our foreparents, “God provide us with your light. Guide us to live faithfully in the demands of this time. Do your work among us.”

This guide invites your congregation to explore and celebrate five distinctive commitments of the UCC. They are known through the phrases: united and uniting, multiracial and multicultural, accessible to all, open

and affirming, and a peace with justice church. These commitments have risen from the struggles, prayers, and celebrations of past General Synods. The commitments have taken on flesh, blood, and spirit when lived out in your own church and community. They express how God has been forming us — what kind of people we are becoming.

“Let your light shine!”

— *Matthew 5:16*

Use this study to not only explore these commitments within the UCC, but also to examine your own congregation. Celebrate the many ways God has worked among you. Also let the national setting of the UCC know what God has done where you live and minister. You will enrich and inspire others. Come on, shine!