

# UCCP Statement of Faith

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*Foreword*

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As we look at the significance of the education and nurture ministry of the Church, two verses come to mind. One is 2 Timothy 3:16 which states:

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work” (NRSV).

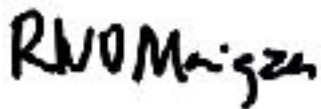
And Joshua 1:8 which reads:

“This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful” (NRSV).

Thus for us in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, the importance of our collective study of the Word of God cannot be overstated. It is an integral part of our living and growing as a Church.

We commend to you this product of love, with the prayer that the lessons therein become a channel of grace, prodding us to do Christ’s mission even in these changing times.

*Blessings,*



**Bishop REUEL NORMAN O. MARIGZA**  
*General Secretary*

The priority of our Church's Christian Education and Nurture Program for these past few years has been our Sunday School Ministry. Aside from producing quadrennium theme-based curricula this quadrennium, we also started producing basic catechetical Sunday School materials. These basic catechetical curricula will be implemented in three-year cycles starting this Ecclesial Year 2018-2019, teaching the important documents of our Church, namely: The Statement of Faith, the Vision, Mission and Goals statements, and The Declaration of Principles as found in our Church's Constitution.

At the end of the three years, the cycle will repeat. Sunday School-goers in the children age groups need not necessarily repeat the same lessons as they will be moving-up and progressing to the next age-level by the time the curricula cycles back. Youth and Adult Sunday School goers may cycle back if they opt to. They will also have an option of taking advanced curricula based on issues and concerns of the church, at which time said curricula should already also be produced. These basic catechetical curricula are divided into five age groups: nursery-kindergarten-prep, younger elementary, older elementary, youth, and adults.

We have striven to take the biblical references for each lesson from the Revised Common Lectionary, allowing us UCCP constituents to read and study the Bible along with the rest of the Christian world.

The first of our basic catechetical curricula—on our Statement of Faith—is now before us. For this first cycle, we can only do web publication. Eventually, we should be able to do hardcopy publication. Hopefully on our second cycle, these materials will already see print.

We have fifty-five lessons for this Ecclesial Year. We start with Trinity Sunday and end with Day of Pentecost. Each lesson is divided into these main categories: Greeting Time, Getting Ready, Learning Time, and Closing Worship.

In this curriculum, we have started to use the word "kin-dom" in lieu of "kingdom" after consulting with our Faith and Order Commissioners and our incumbent bishops. In our attempt to be more inclusive in our language, we have started to introduce in our lessons this concept of a realm and an order which is centered more on a relationship of kinship, fellowship, friendship, companionship, equality, cooperation, shared leadership, shared resources, and not only centered on one person. As we get accustomed to this concept, it is hoped that we also begin to move toward a community and act as a community that fosters such. We invoke John 15:15a where Jesus said, "I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends...."

We will be parsing through our Statement of Faith, going through each of the articles. By the end of this curriculum on the SOF, it is hoped that all of us will understand even more why we declare this as our statement of faith and even get to know it by heart, if we don't yet.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to:

- Our incumbent Bishops and our Faith and Order Commissioners who have received very well the idea of a basic catechetical curricula and have been active partners in the inception of this project;
- Our General Secretary, Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza, the Bishop for NWMJ, Bishop Melzar Labuntog, the Bishop for EVJ, Bishop Jaime Moriles, the Jurisdictional Program Coordinators: Rev. Levi Lou Amora, Rev. Rey Alejandro Lazaro, Rev. Luisito Saliendra, Rev. Fely Tenchavez, our local church pastors: Rev. Annabelle Azarcon-Uriarte, and Rev. Lilibeth Tauy-Tendero, for being vibrant participants in the conceptualizing process;
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- Rev. Annabelle Azarcon-Uriarte for editing the lessons for Youth;
- Our program staff: Mr. Jophet T. Domingo and Mr. Leandro Karlo Suarez for their indispensable help in producing these materials.

Let us continue in Christ's ministry, especially in this important task of educating and nurturing all of us in the UCCP in faith and service as we together move towards God's Kin-dom of peace, justice and love.

Thank you and may God continue to bless us.



**Ms. Melinda Grace B. Aoanan**

National Coordinator, Christian Education and Nurture Program  
Executive Secretary, Program Ministries

*Quezon City, 17 May 2018*