

Litany of New Beginnings | Renewal of Baptism and Membership

Brothers and sisters, it is a new day! A day filled with expectation for what is to come and a day to remember how far God has brought us. We acknowledge that in our baptism we are incorporated into the body of Christ spanning the ages of Christian history from every tribe, language, and nation. As we embark on a new journey we remember that our faith is ancient and has stood the test of time.

As new members of this congregation of The Global Methodist Church we renew our baptismal vows and profess the faith of the Church that has been handed down to us.¹

Do you renounce the devil and all his works, and reject the evil powers of this world?

We renounce them.

Do you repent of your sin, turn to Jesus Christ, and confess Him as your Lord and Savior?

We do.

Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments? **We do.**

Do you accept the responsibility to resist evil, injustice, and oppression by the grace and power of God? **We do.**

Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life by the grace and power of God? **We will.**

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?

We believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again;

¹ Baptismal Vows from the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines of The Global Methodist Church, 26-28.

**He ascended into heaven,
Is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,²
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ as members of a particular expression of the Christian faith, The Global Methodist Church, we recommit ourselves to our Wesleyan heritage in this congregation.

Will you live a life of holiness?

We commit ourselves to a life of personal and social holiness, going onto Christian perfection.

Will you attend to the ordinances of God?

We commit ourselves to remember our baptism and receive holy communion regularly, and practice the means of grace to keep our faith vibrant and growing.

Will you give your life in service to Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit?

We commit ourselves to hold fast to the doctrine, spirit, and discipline of our Wesleyan witness.

We will worship passionately in the spirit of our heritage of faith.

We will love extravagantly with the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ.

We will witness boldly, empowered by the Holy Spirit.³

Will you be loyal to Christ through *(insert church name)* Church and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness as Christ's representatives in this world?⁴

² Or universal

³ Taken from the Global Methodist Church Mission Statement

⁴ Membership Vow from The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Disciplines of The Global Methodist Church, 28.

We will. We give thanks to God for the foundation that has been laid in the past and look forward to what is to come in this congregation of The Global Methodist Church. We recommit our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of this church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Let us pray,

We are no longer ours, but yours.

Put us to what you will, place us with whom you will.

Put us to doing, put us to suffering.

Let us be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let us be full, let us be empty.

Let us have all things, let us have nothing.

We freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.⁵

Father God, we humbly lay *(insert church name)* Church, the newly formed Global Methodist Church, and the church universal at your feet, knowing that it is your church, not ours. Lord Jesus, you said that you would be lifted up and would draw all people to you. Transform your church into a community that lifts up your name, proclaiming the coming Kingdom of God where every tribe, language, and nation will worship before the throne. Fill us with the fire and power of the Holy Spirit to serve you faithfully in this world.

May it be so! Glory be to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Doxology*

Liturgical Notes

✠ *The congregation is invited to come forward to touch the waters of baptism. Additionally, the pastor or lay leader can mark the sign of the cross on a congregant's forehead or hand using the phrase: Remember your baptism and be thankful.*

✠ *To pair this liturgy with communion insert the invitation to the table, confession, pardon, sharing the peace of Christ, offering, and the Great Thanksgiving at the end.⁶*

✠ *Follow with songs/hymns of dedication, celebration, thanksgiving, and/or praise.*

⁵ Excerpt from the Wesley Covenant Prayer, modern language

⁶ Additional liturgy written and compiled by Rev. Dr. Tesia L. Mallory, GMC elder.