

# Community of Christ

## Shared Understanding of Previous Baptism

- A Christian minister, clergyperson, or pastor baptized me by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling.
- My baptism was a personal expression of faith in Jesus Christ when I was 8 or older.
- I am familiar with and embrace the vision, mission, message, sacraments, and basic beliefs of Community of Christ.
- I am familiar with and embrace the responsibility of all church members to contribute to Local and World Ministries Mission Tithes according to our true capacity.
- I am actively involved in a Community of Christ congregation or ministry fellowship (typically at least six months).
  - (It is understood that in some cases, a person may wish to join the church while living in an area isolated from other congregations. In these situations, the criteria of “active” will need to be interpreted by the mission center president, in consultation with the field apostle. The primary point is that people desiring to be confirmed should be as “active” as possible, given their circumstance. In some cases, if a person is isolated from the organized ministries of the church, “activity” in the church may be lived out at the mission center level or through ongoing contact with church officers.)

I am a baptized Christian, and I want to become a member of Community of Christ through the sacrament of confirmation.

_____	_____
Name [Signature]	Date
_____	_____
Community of Christ Congregation	Pastor Signature

Previous Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  Unavailable  
Date or Approximate Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
Baptizing Minister's Affiliation (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a completed copy of this form to:

Membership Records  
1001 W. Walnut St.  
Independence, MO 64055-3562 USA  
Phone: (816) 833-1000, extension 1442. E-mail: [fcooper@CofChrist.org](mailto:fcooper@CofChrist.org)

## **Process for Collecting “Shared Understanding of Previous Baptism” Statement**

### **Congregational Level**

1. Pastor provides copies of the form to priesthood who are working with potential church members.
2. Priesthood members use the document to begin a conversation on conditions of membership and what Community of Christ requires to become a member of the church without baptism.
3. The potential member signs the form.
4. The priesthood member who had that conversation with the potential member makes sure:
  - The pastor signs the form.
  - A copy of the form is sent to Membership Records at International Headquarters.
5. The congregational or mission center recorder keeps a copy of the form for five years.
  - The congregational or mission center recorder makes certain the member’s confirmation is entered in Shelby.
    - Verify the Shelby record is up to date with contact information.
  - Do not use the name of the Christian minister, clergyperson, or pastor who baptized the person.
    - The “Officiant” field in Shelby is filled in “Other” as a code that makes it clear the person was not baptized by Community of Christ priesthood.
    - Enter the previous church as a comment in the notes of the baptism life event, if the information is available.
    - Enter the approximate or precise date of baptism.

### **World Church Level**

1. When the form arrives, a member of the Membership Records team looks up the person to make sure the necessary information has been entered and is ready for a report to access its data.
  - a. Even if the data is in other languages, as long as it is legible, this should be acceptable.
  - b. This step should be tracking what the local recorder has entered, not entering the record.
2. The paper copy is stored alphabetically in a file.