



# Sermon Starter: 'That they may all be 1'

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



by William C. Green

A poet said, “Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.” When we are at our best, that’s what we do in church. The love we know is found, not in looking at how much we agree with each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction. Through all our differences, we are called to work together so that God’s will can be done “on earth as it is in heaven.” In this spirit, Jesus prayed what became the motto of the United Church of Christ, that we may “all be one.” (John 17:23)

We can honor this call in ways that soar beyond what seems possible! We come to know what inspired Mary to say, “Nothing is impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37) We learn this, not alone, but as part of the worldwide body of Christ.

There is no “me” without “we.” We’re incomplete without the wider world of others. Our baptismal vows, most church creeds, and the UCC’s Statement of Faith begin with “we.” From the outset of faith, we’re looking outward together, meant to be united in a common vision of God’s all-embracing love. Jesus’ prayer, “That we may all be one,” is followed by St. Paul’s reminder that no one of us can say of another, “I have no need of you.” (1 Corinthians 12:21)

Acting together in this spirit, we have a new opportunity. Nov. 1-11 is shaping up as another opportunity to look outward together in the UCC. Called “Mission: 1” after the oneness to which Jesus calls us, this campaign focuses on world hunger and food-related injustice worldwide. The goals are for all in the UCC to share in donating 1 million items of healthy food through local congregations, to give at least \$111,111 in online donations to the Neighbors in Need offering, and to send 11,111 letters to Congress in support of more effective U.S. foreign aid. Learn more at <<http://www.ucc.org/mission1>>.

**Mission:1**  
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