



Christian
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Church

Children at the Lord's Table





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Goal

To understand Synod 2010's decision to welcome children to the Lord's Supper and to share suggestions for introducing and implementing this change in our congregations.



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Outline

1. Children at the Table – background comments
2. Guiding principles for introducing this change
3. Examples from around the CRC
4. Questions and answers



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Children at the Lord's Table Synod 1995

Recommends that churches encourage younger children to make profession of faith.



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Children at the Lord's Table Synod 2006

Agrees to the admission of all baptized children on the basis of their full membership in the covenant community.



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Children at the Lord's Table *Synod 2007*

Does *not* adopt the change; appoints the
Faith Formation Committee.





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Children at the Lord's Table Mandate

To deepen the integration of biblical teaching; confessional norms; church polity; and liturgical, educational, and pastoral practices in the CRC with respect to (1) participation in the Lord's Supper, and (2) public profession of faith.



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Children at the Lord's Table Synod 2010

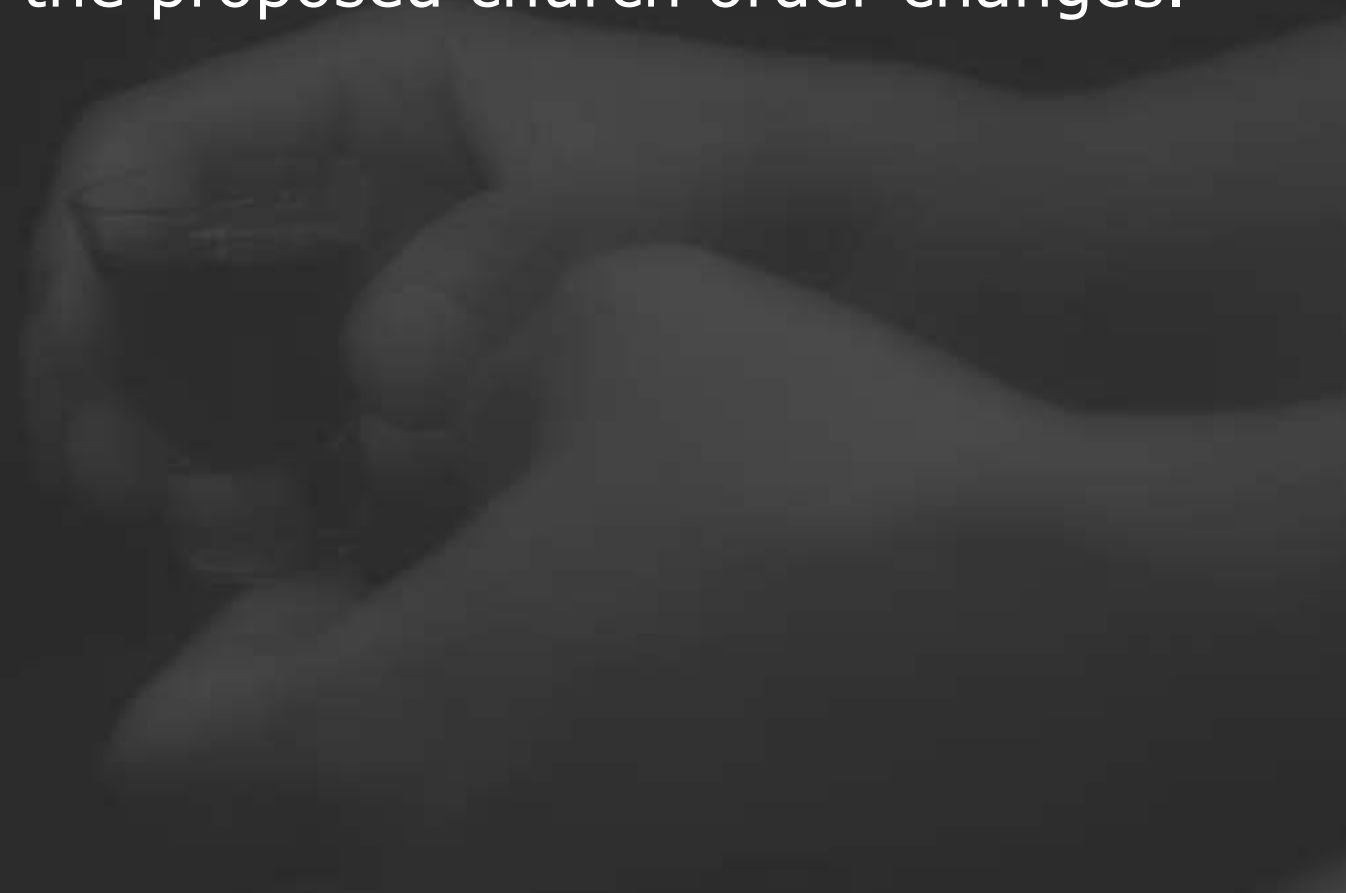
All baptized members who come with age- and ability-appropriate faith in Jesus Christ are welcome to the Lord's Table and called to obey the scriptural commands about participation. . . in an age- and ability-appropriate way, under the supervision of the elders.



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Children at the Lord's Table Synod 2011

Approves committee's recommendation
and the proposed church order changes.





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Children at the Lord's Table Website

www.crcna.org/faithformation





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Poll 1

Which of these statements best describes your congregation?





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Now what?





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Introducing change: some considerations...





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Introducing Change

- Put together a team to plan the process.
- Resolve the issue of profession of faith.
- Establish a process; designate those who are involved with each step.
- Receive the approval of council.
- Designate a Sunday to begin.
- Prepare and educate the congregation.
- Prepare and educate parents.
- Prepare and educate children.
- Welcome children—and celebrate their presence.



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Children at the Lord's Table Introducing Change

- Follow up. Put plan in place for an ongoing process for inviting children to the Table.



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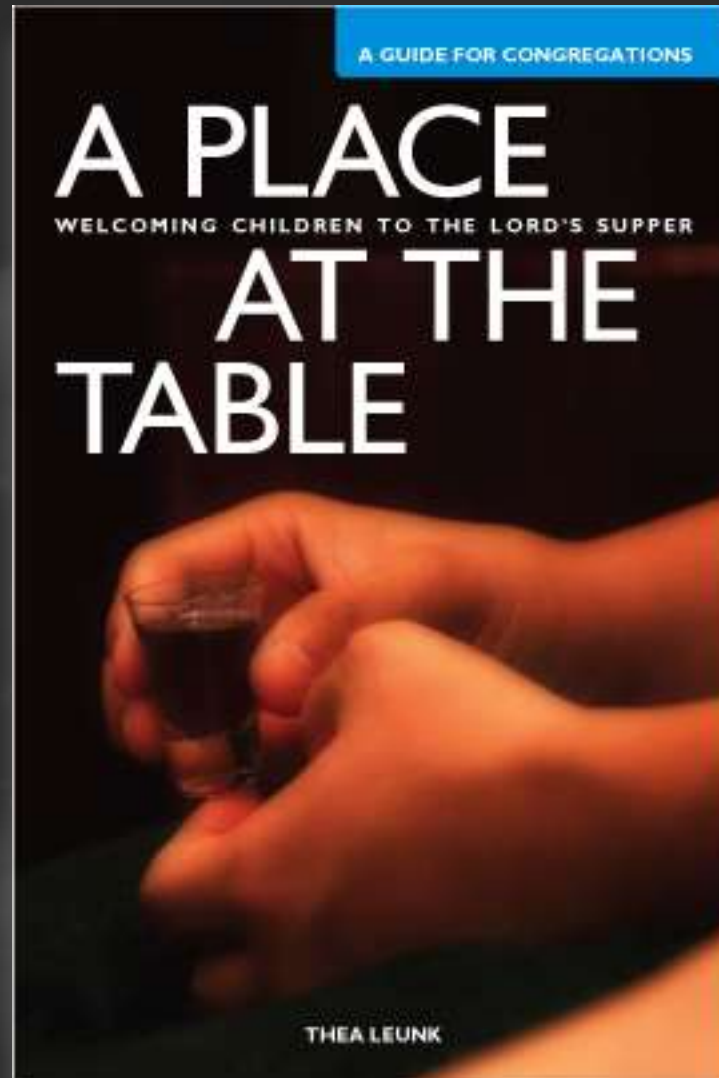
Poll 2

Which of these statements best describes your congregation on the importance of children making some statement of faith prior to participating in the sacrament?



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Children at the Lord's Table Around the CRC

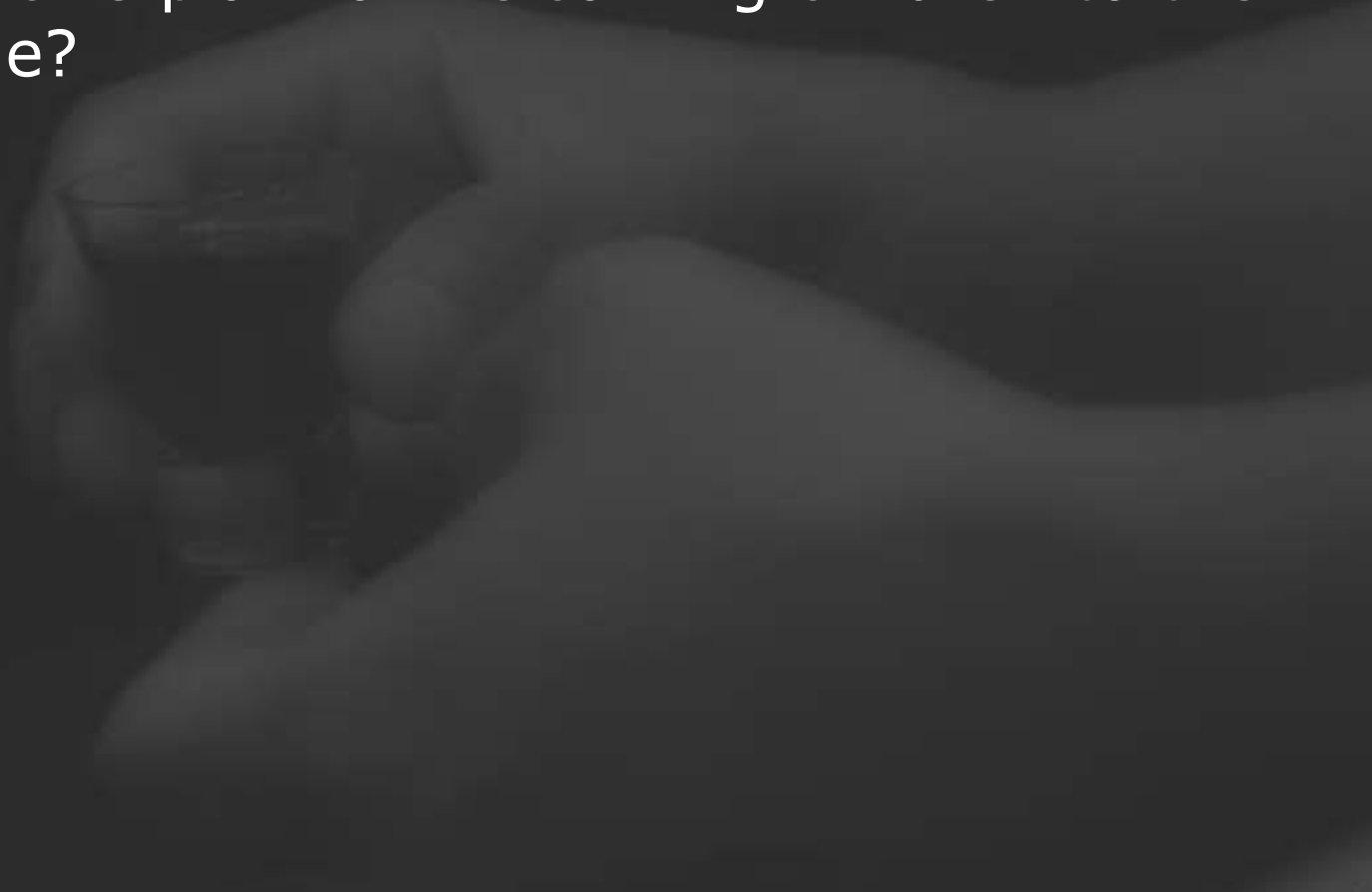




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Children at the Lord's Table Around the CRC

What is the role of elders or council in your church's plan for welcoming children to the Table?





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What part do parents play in their children's participation in the sacrament? (Do they initiate the process or respond to an invitation from the church leaders?)



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What kind (if any) of response or faith statement do you ask of the children prior to their coming to the Table?



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How does the congregation acknowledge or welcome children who come to the Table for the first time?



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What blessings has your congregation experienced as it has welcomed children to the Lord's Supper?



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Q & A





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Learn more: www.crcna.org/faithformation

Contact us: faithformation@crcna.org





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Thank You

