



Generations United Federal Credit Union

Frequently Asked Questions

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Q. What is a credit union?

A credit union is a not-for-profit financial institution that accepts deposits, make loans, and provides a wide array of other financial services and products. Deposits are insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, which is managed by The National Credit Union Administration, commonly referred to as NCUA. Backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, the Share Insurance Fund insures the accounts of millions of account holders in all federal credit unions and most state-chartered credit unions. The standard share insurance amount is \$250,000 per share owner, per insured credit union, for each account ownership category.

Q. How do credit unions differ from traditional banks?

Although they offer many of the same products and services as other financial institutions, credit unions have some distinguishing characteristics that make them unique. Credit unions are owned and controlled by the people, or members, who use their services. A volunteer board of directors is elected by members to manage a credit union. Profits are returned to members in the form of reduced fees, higher dividends on savings, and lower loan rates. The cooperative structure of credit unions creates a cycle of mutual assistance towards the common goal of the financial well-being of members. One member's savings can provide for another member's loan.

Q. Why start a credit union?

As an affiliated ministry of the United Church of Christ, the Pension Boards, has supported the church's longstanding commitment to economic justice for all, and has acted on a 2017 General Synod resolution that calls for the creation of a credit union that would serve UCC members and settings nationwide. Several Pension Boards team members led the effort to charter Generations United Federal Credit Union (Generations) for the United Church of Christ.

In 2011, the UCC's 28th General Synod unanimously approved the resolution titled, "Putting our money where our values are: Evaluating church financial relationships," which called on all churches and other settings of the UCC to "faithfully examine their relationships with financial institutions and, where practical and prudent, deliberately move toward relating to financial institutions that have records of fair lending, business and investing practices as each body discerns for its setting."

In 2017, the Business Committee of the 31st General Synod recommended the resolution titled, "Resolution of Support for Establishing Relationships Between United Church of Christ Setting and Community Development Federal Credit Unions" be sent directly to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors for approval. The resolution asks the National Setting of the United Church of Christ to explore a community development credit union relationship that can serve UCC settings nationwide that would otherwise have no access to a community development credit union.

Both resolutions clearly illustrate the General Synod's objective is to cultivate and build a credit union for all members of the United Church of Christ.

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Q. How will UCC members benefit from participating in a credit union?

Credit unions typically charge fewer fees than banks, and they typically charge lower rates for loans and pay higher rates on savings. While credit unions can greatly benefit communities in low- and middle-income households, they are for everyone. Since credit unions are member-owned, members decide how their credit union is run and who runs it. In addition, members of a credit union can expect to:

- Receive excellent customer service and financial education
- Receive lower interest rates on loans
- Gain a sense of community among other members
- Participate in an institution that is socially conscious, community-focused, and reflects UCC values
- Conveniently access their funds through a nationwide network of ATM's
- Have a voice and vote for board of trustees and where money is best deployed to support community projects
- Know with confidence that their money is insured up to \$250,000 backed by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund



Q. What is the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)?

Created by the U.S. Congress in 1970, the National Credit Union Administration is an independent federal agency that insures deposits at federally insured credit unions, protects the members who own credit unions, and charters and regulates federal credit unions. The NCUA protects the safety and soundness of the credit union system by identifying, monitoring, and reducing risks to the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. Once again, backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, the Share Insurance Fund provides up to \$250,000 of federal share insurance to millions of account holders in all federal credit unions and most state-chartered credit unions.

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Q. How can I join Generations United Federal Credit Union?

A member can join Generations by opening an account with as little as \$5 into a share savings account.

To qualify for membership, you'll need to be any one of the following:

- A member of the United Church of Christ;
- An employee of the United Church of Christ;
- A spouse of person who died while within the field of membership of this credit union;
- A member of the immediate family or household participating in the credit union;
- An employee or volunteer of the credit union; plus, any organization of such persons; and
- A corporate or other legal entity in this charter.

Q: When is the credit union expected to launch?

Generations officially received its charter from the NCUA in April 2023. A small team of Pension Board's professionals has taken up the challenge to bring the credit union to an operational status. We are anticipating opening our doors to accept deposits and make loans in the fourth quarter of 2024.



Bank	Credit Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower fees and interest rates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big branches mean less individualized care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More personalized customer service
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial education opportunities

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A special thanks to our sponsoring organizations!

Association of Hawaiʻian Evangelical Churches (AHEC)
Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa (CCCAS)
Hawaiʻi Conference Foundation
Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR)
New York Conference of the United Church of Christ
Ryder Memorial Hospital
The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc.
The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance
United Church of Christ Church & Building Loan Fund
Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ

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