

Steps towards Baptism

Parkminster United Church

1. The dates of Baptismal services will be announced in the bulletin and via congregational email approximately 5 weeks in advance. There will be approximately 3 Baptismal Sundays per year. Baptism is conducted during the regular Sunday morning Worship Service.
2. When parents enquire about Baptism by phone or other contact:
 - a. They are invited to come to a Sunday Worship service and identify themselves to the Minister(s), if they have not already done so.
 - b. They are given an information package which includes a letter of welcome, the brochure "Baptism: Beginning the Faith Journey" and an information sheet to be filled out and returned to the office. This form is kept in an "Upcoming Baptisms" file. This package may be sent electronically or given to the family by a Minister or Membership Committee representative.
 - c. The Office Administrator ensures that the Minister(s) and the Membership Committee are given a copy of the information sheet.
3. A follow-up house call or office visit is arranged by the Minister for the purpose of getting to know the family and discussing any questions or concerns about Parkminster's Baptism policy. If the parents are not already members of Parkminster, they will be encouraged to:
 - a. Transfer their membership
 - b. Reaffirm their faith
 - c. Commit themselves to the next available Membership class
4. The Minister or Membership Chairperson will then present the names of children for Baptism to the Membership Committee or Church Council for official reception.
5. A representative from the Membership Committee will contact the family to discuss the date of the Baptism, and assign a Sponsor from the congregation.
6. During the week prior to the Baptism, the Minister and the Membership Committee will conduct a rehearsal/reception for parents to explore more deeply the nature of Baptism vows and symbols, to prepare for the service and to meet other parents and sponsors. The Office Administrator will prepare the Baptismal Certificate which will be signed by the Minister, Church Council chairperson and the Sponsor at this time, or on the Sunday of Baptism.
7. On Sunday, the sacrament of Baptism, presentation of the Baptismal Certificate, candle and children's book takes place during the service. Since this is a Worship service, parents are encouraged to take pictures at the font following the service, rather than during the service.