

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH  
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#### BAPTISM POLICY

1. Baptism is a sacrament by which we are admitted into the Church. A sacrament is an act of worship instituted by Christ in which He joins material things with the inward working of the Holy Spirit to set forth and communicate to believers the saving love of God. Through baptism, by the use of water, we are received into the Church of Christ, and are engaged to be wholly and always His.
2. In the United Church of Canada practice, when a child is presented for Baptism, at least one of the parents will be a member of the local church. Parents who are members of other churches are invited to transfer their membership to St. Andrew's United Church, or, if never confirmed, to attend confirmation classes leading to adult membership.
3. Apart from exceptional circumstances, the sacrament of baptism is celebrated in the context of the Sunday worship service at St. Andrew's United Church.
4. In order to prepare for the service of baptism, parents are required to meet with the minister to discuss the nature and implications of baptism.
5. In the United Church of Canada practice, the whole congregation acts as "sponsors" or "godparents" for the child; it is optional for parents to choose additional designated godparents.
6. During the service of baptism, both the parents and the congregation take vows promising to help provide Christian nurture for those baptized. Children who have been baptized will have their names added to the church's Cradle Roll; when they are three years old, families will receive an invitation from the Cradle Roll for the child to attend Sunday Church School. It is expected that parents will bring children regularly to the Sunday Church School as one follow-up to the parent's vows.
7. Adult baptism will follow participation in confirmation classes and will adhere to the above guidelines.
8. Exceptions to the above guidelines will be considered on an individual basis.

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1. The Board of Evangelism and Social Service, *Catechism: The United Church of Canada*, Toronto: The United Church of Canada, 1944, p.8, #32

2. *Ibid.*, p. 9, #34