



Jordan Station United Church

The United Church of Canada



Sacrament of Baptism Policy

JANUARY 2023

Baptisms

Among Christians, the Sacrament of Baptism is an action, or rite, that celebrates God's loving initiative and our faithful response. It is God's "Yes" to us and our "Yes" to God. Regardless of the candidate's age, Baptism is the sole rite of initiation and inclusion into Christian community. Baptism identifies us. It is an act of welcoming, blessing and belonging.

Getting Started

If you would like to a Baptism at Jordan Station United Church the first step is to contact the Church Office at 905-562-4454, or by email at admin@jordanstationunitedchurch.org. When you first speak to the Office Administrator, any questions you may have about this policy can be answered. If you wish to be baptised at Jordan Station United Church, you will be asked to make an appointment with the Minister to discuss your plans in detail. It is expected that all parties involved will be present at this and subsequent meetings. Baptisms are scheduled to be a part of our Sunday Worship Services therefore there are no Fees associated for the Baptism Service.

Facilities

The Jordan Station United Church Sanctuary accommodates a maximum of 140 people. The Church Hall (Auditorium) at Jordan Station United Church can accommodate receptions/banquets for up to 150 people. If you are interested in the use of our Auditorium or Commercial Kitchen, please request the Rental Policy for these facilities. The regular Fee structure will apply.

Baptism Service:

Baptisms are scheduled to be a part of our Sunday Worship Services. Each person is presented by their parents, Godparents or sponsor who make promises on behalf of the child before God and in the presence of God's people. Water, a powerful symbol for many things (e.g. birth, cleansing, renewal, even chaos!) will be poured onto your child's head by our Minister. In some faith communities, the candidate, regardless of age, is totally immersed in water. Good news...that is NOT our tradition.

The power and meaning of Baptism rests upon the promise of God to be with us and upon our promises to "do justly, love tenderly and walk humbly" in the presence of God and others. Baptism does not need to be repeated. It is a "one time only" occurrence. From time to time, including every Baptismal ceremony, it is appropriate for individuals and congregations to remind themselves of their Baptismal covenant by renewing their Baptismal faith. Throughout our lives we continue to be welcomed, included and blessed.

Baptism in the United Church of Canada

The Profession of Faith is an essential part of the sacrament of Baptism. Since infants and young children are unable to profess faith for themselves, their parents or guardians do so on their behalf. If the faith professed by parents and guardians is empty of meaning or intent, the Sacrament of Baptism, while still valid from a divine perspective, is a charade from a human perspective. An infant does not need to be baptized to be assured of God's gracious love. But those professing faith need to take their vows seriously for their infants to live in the fullness of their baptismal blessing.

The order and wording of the vows taken by candidates or parents or guardians may vary, but they will reflect the following:

- profession of faith in the Triune God,
- commitment to seek justice and resist evil,
- commitment to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
- commitment to the mission and ministry of the Church.

While the United Church's commitment to just and inclusive language allows for the optional use of a variety of Trinitarian blessings following Baptism, our current ecumenical agreement with other faith partners requires the use of the traditional Trinitarian Formula of "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" during the act of Baptism.

Adult baptism occurs in the United Church whenever an unbaptized person with the capacity for decision-making is baptized upon his, or her, own request and profession of faith. In such instances, Baptism and Confirmation take place together.

Jordan Station United Church joyfully welcomes:

- infants brought by members, adherents and visitors for Baptism (only direct requests from parents or guardians will be considered)
- adults who wish to profess their own faith and be Baptized

People requesting Baptism for their infants or themselves can expect to be warmly welcomed by a rejoicing faith community. Your responsibilities include:

- participating regularly in Worship prior to Baptism
- enrolling other children in the home (3 years of age and older) in Sunday School
- meeting with the Minister before the request for Baptism is approved
- participating (or to have participated) in meaningful Baptismal preparation

Our responsibilities and goals include:

- having the request considered and approved by the Church Board or its Executive
- assigning a "sponsor" or "faith friend" whose pleasure it will be to participate in the service of Baptism and continue to uphold the baptized person in prayer and faithful friendship

- providing you with a Certificate of Baptism and other symbols, or tokens, of covenant relationship
- inviting you to share your gifts as partners in mission and ministry with others at Jordan Station United Church

The following details are required so we can ensure that the Certificate of Baptism is accurate:

Candidate's Full Legal Name

Mother's Full Legal Name (including her maiden name if applicable)

Father's Full Legal Name

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Candidate's full mailing address

Contact telephone number

Name of God Parents (if applicable)

Thank You! for taking the time to read this information. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Office Administrator or the Minister. We ask God's blessing on you as you plan not only for a Baptism, but also for a lifetime of faith!