

[CHURCH NAME]

Baptism Policy (Sample)

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a Christian sacrament of admission and adoption and celebrated by [Church Name]. It's a visible sign of God's grace. When children are baptized, parents make a commitment on their behalf. Inherent in infant or child's baptism is the expectation that the children will confirm their faith (and membership) when they're old enough to decide for themselves.

Policy:

[Church Name] stipulates that at least one parent of the child be a member or future member of good standing in the church. "In good standing" means regular attendance, fellowship in the church, and financial support of the church. The parents should have a sincere interest in the church and be committed to raising their child in the Christian faith by bringing them to worship, giving them opportunity to learn through Sunday School, and being an active part of the community of faith. [Church Name] realizes in a busy world it's difficult to keep centered in the church so they honor the parent's intention to be a part of the church family by integrating them into the active life of the church.

Procedure:

The [Church Name]'s secretary, after receiving a request for baptism, notes the full names and addresses of the person requesting to be baptized or the full names and addresses of the parents and child. The secretary confirms if they're a member, gives the baptism dates and sends them a copy of the baptism policy.

After they've reviewed the baptism policy and they decide to proceed, they will notify the church office. The minister will then contact them.

The minister informs the Membership and Fellowship Committee, who in turn will notify the Church Council of the intended baptisms. Names of the person being baptized or names of the baby and parents are recorded in the Church Council Minutes.

The Sacrament of Baptism is an act of worship, and will take place during the regular worship service.

The person being baptized name is added to our Record of Baptism in the church office.

Special Circumstances:

Although people or children whose parents are members of a Christian Church in another community can be baptized in our church, providing the person or parents agree to fulfill their obligations at their own community church, we prefer that they have the baptism in their home church. Their home church can give them the support needed in keeping with the baptism vows.

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Exceptions:

Any exceptions to the Baptism Policy must be approved by the Church Council.

If the candidate or parents are not confirmed members, they or their children may be baptized if they choose a sponsor from the church. A sponsor is a member in good standing who commits himself/herself to be responsible to the best of their ability, for their or their child's Christian upbringing through worship, Sunday School and active life of the church. Also, the sponsor will encourage the candidate or child's parents to become participants in the life of the faith community.

Vows:

Baptism of children involves promises that are taken by both the parents and the [Church Name] congregation in the presence of God.

A sample of vows are:

- **Promise of the Parents:**
 - **Minister:** You've brought your child here for baptism. Do you believe in God and in God's love?
 - **Parents:** Yes, we do.
 - **Minister:** Do you believe that God is known to us in Jesus, who lived and died and lives again?
 - **Parents:** Yes, we do.
 - **Minister:** Do you believe that God's Spirit is active in the world to direct and strengthen you?
 - **Parents:** Yes, we do.
 - **Minister:** Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your children and will you encourage them to make a personal profession of faith?
 - **Parents:** Yes, we will.
- **Promises of the Congregation:**
 - **All:** As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

Signatures

Senior Pastor

Secretary

Revised: _____