

GRACE UNITED CHURCH, Caledonia

Policy and Procedure Manual

Policy Title	BAPTISM	Policy Number	PPM-B2.1
Date of Approval by Council	January 2013		
Revision Dates	March 29, 2017, Oct. 19, 2023	Date of next Review	October 2026

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Sacrament of Baptism is performed in accordance with the Manual of the United Church of Canada Section B3.2 Members.

Grace United Church recognizes the Baptism of children and adults.

PROCEDURE:

1. Those wishing Baptism will contact the Minister or the church office.
2. For the Baptism of a child, the Minister will meet with the parent(s) or guardian(s). For an adult seeking Baptism, the minister will meet with the individual. The Minister will then confer with the Membership & Pastoral Care Committee regarding the request for Baptism.
3. Baptism service dates will be set by the minister and the candidate for Baptism and/or the parents/guardians in consultation with the Worship & Music Committee and the Membership & Pastoral Care Committee. Every effort will be made to schedule Baptisms on the date requested by the family during regular Sunday worship services. Exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis.
4. If neither parent/guardian is a member of Grace United Church, the Membership and Pastoral Care Committee will sponsor the child. The Minister will encourage the parents/guardian to seek membership.
5. The Membership & Pastoral Care Committee, in consultation with the Minister, will make a recommendation to the Church Council regarding the Baptism. The Church Council will vote on approval of the candidate for Baptism.
6. In an emergency and non-emergency situation, where it is not possible to secure prior consent of the Church Council, the person administering the Sacrament of Baptism shall report such decisions at the next Council meeting for the decision to be ratified.
7. The church office is responsible for keeping accurate Baptismal Records under the oversight of the Membership & Pastoral Care Committee.
8. The Minister and the Chair of Membership and Pastoral Care will sign the Baptismal Certificate.

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9. Dedication of a child is also available as an alternative to Baptism.
10. Exceptions to this Policy may be made only with the consent of Church Council.

POLICY/PROCEDURE REVIEW:

Time Frame: Every three years

Committee Responsible: Membership & Pastoral Care
All policy revisions require Council approval.

CROSS REFERENCES:

PPM-B1.1 *New Membership*

PPM-B3.1 *Confirmation*

United Church of Canada, *The Manual*, B3.2, 3.3