

WOODCLIFF UNITED CHURCH

BAPTISM POLICY

This Policy represents the intention of Woodcliff United Church (WUC) with regard to the administration of the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND BELIEF

“Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity is the means by which we are received, at any age, into the covenanted community of the church . . . Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining, and transforming power of God’s love and our grateful response to that grace.” (A Song of Faith, 2006). Baptism is a communal event in which the gathered Congregation promises to participate in the ongoing nurture and support of the newly baptized person’s faith and spiritual growth.

POLICY

- All persons (adult, youth, child, infant) are eligible.
- All persons seeking Baptism must meet with the Minister.
- Baptism normally occurs in a Sunday public worship service. An exception can be granted by the Minister in extraordinary or urgent circumstances such as a life threatening medical emergency.
- Except in emergency situations, all Baptisms require the prior approval of WUC Council.
- Child and Infant Baptism
 - The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the child/infant must attend a baptismal preparation session conducted by the Minister or duly appointed Church representative.
 - One of the parents must have been baptized.
- Adult and Youth Baptism
 - Candidates must attend Confirmation classes with the Minister or duly appointed Church representative.
 - Adult Baptism accompanied by Profession of Faith results in the individual’s becoming a full Member of the United Church of Canada and the faith community of WUC.

- All Baptisms must be recorded in the Register for Baptisms held in the Church Office, included in the Annual Report of WUC, and sent as statistical information to General Council.
- Individuals who perceive their situation may involve an extension or exception to this Policy are welcome to discuss this with the Minister.

ADMINISTRATION

This Policy is administered by the Minister and Council of WUC.

Approved by the Congregation at the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting

Date: _____

Signatures:

Council Chair

Council Secretary

REFERENCES

A Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada (2006)

The Manual, The United Church of Canada (2013)

WUC Duty of Care Policy

WUC Membership Policy

WUC Policy for Creation, Revision, Approval, and Removal of Policies

Original Approval Date: March 13, 2016	Review Dates:	Next Review Date:
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