

Augustine United Church

Baptism Policy

One of the ways we respond to God's gift of Grace is through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Augustine United Church welcomes all who wish to be baptized. Parents seeking child baptism or adult candidates seeking baptism need to have engaged in a process of discernment with the Minister of the Pastoral Charge and members of the Worship Team to ensure faithfulness to the covenant of baptism. A period of preparation for Baptism should be expected.

Baptism is an invitation to become part of the community of faith. In the case of The United Church of Canada, an individual adult or infant becomes a member of the congregation to which they are baptized. Upon confirmation the individual becomes a full member, with all rights and privileges of membership both with the congregation into which they are confirmed and within The United Church of Canada.

Planning

Persons seeking the Sacrament of Baptism must contact the Minister of the Pastoral Charge.

Preparation for Baptism

Candidates for Baptism require the approval of the Church Council and the Minister of the Pastoral Charge. A sponsor will be provided by the minister or the Worship Team to act as a connection between the newly baptized and the congregation into which they were baptized.

Date for Baptism

Date for Baptism is to be set by the Worship Team and the Minister of the Pastoral Charge. Baptisms generally occur on Sundays that are liturgically appropriate or designated as Sundays for Baptism. Baptisms do not generally occur on Sundays or during worship on occasions such as Easter Sunday, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, etc.

Requirements for Baptism

In order for an infant or child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism one of the parents or guardians must be a confirmed member in good standing (per United Church Manual).

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Church register and Certificate of Baptism information needs to be provided to the Pastoral Charge Office Administrator no later than one week prior to the baptism.

Music, Flowers and Decorations

It is understood that the Sacrament of Baptism is to be performed by the Minister of the Pastoral Charge in the context of congregational worship. However, the worship team is willing, with proper notice, to assist in making this a meaningful time for those seeking baptism by entertaining ways to create an atmosphere that considers the family's wishes. It is important to note that any extra expense created in this endeavor is the responsibility of those seeking Baptism.

It should be noted that all decisions regarding involvement of other clergy in worship services of any kind is at the discretion of the Minister of the Pastoral Charge who normally presides over all worship at Augustine United Church.

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