

Pembina Parish
Baptism Policy and Information
June 2020



Congregational Commitment

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

***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. ***Amen.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

SAMPLE PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

Profession of Faith in the Triune God

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come In the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Commitment to Seek Justice and Resist Evil

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment to Follow the Way of Jesus Christ

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment to the Mission and Ministry of the Church

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Parent(s) or Sponsor(s)

In baptism, N. marks an important step in his/her/their journey of faith. Will you pray for N, encourage him/her/them by your words and actions, and walk with him/her/them in the way of Jesus?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Godparents (optional)

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support N./these children and his/their parent(s)/ guardian(s) as they grow in faith?

I will, God being my helper.

Pembina Parish Baptism Policy and Information

What is Baptism?

Baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the Christian Church. Through baptism each of us is welcomed into the community of faith. The service of baptism celebrates the graceful initiative of God in calling and claiming us, and the faithful response of the people, both as individuals and as community. In the United Church we practise infant and adult baptism.

What happens at Baptism?

The normal practice of the United Church is to celebrate the sacrament of baptism during a public service of worship. It is important for the church community to be present. In Pembina Parish baptism will occur on occasions which have been co-ordinated with the minister.

In response to God's gracious initiative, the parents (or adult candidates for baptism) and the gathered community make a profession of faith. The church community expresses its willingness to receive and support the families in the faith formation of all children in their midst. Using the visible signs of water, laying on of hands, and other gestures, the sacrament celebrates God's invisible grace poured out on us. It is our expectation that for infant baptism, at least one parent/guardian will be an active member in the life of the congregation. If this is not the case, a sponsor, who has been baptized and confirmed as a member of Pembina Parish will participate with the parents. The Worship Interest Group will recommend the sponsor, who will be prepared to offer support to the parents on behalf of the Church.

How do we prepare for baptism?

Preparation begins with the parents (in the case of infant baptism) or adult candidates for baptism meeting with the minister on one or more occasions for learning about the meaning of baptism and the Christian faith. Parents of children being baptized are also asked to complete a "Request for the Baptism of a Child" form. Adults being baptized may be asked to do some reading and further preparation on the profession of faith they will be making.

Where, in the wisdom of the minister and the Worship Interest Group, neither parent/guardian is prepared to make a basic commitment to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to the church; to teach their children the truths and duties of the Christian faith; to make a Christian home as an example to them; and to encourage their child(ren) to seek confirmation; baptism may not be appropriate.

What about Godparents?

It is the tradition of the United Church of Canada to regard the whole congregation as godparents of a child being baptized. The whole congregation makes a promise to provide for the spiritual nourishment and Christian nurture of all children in our care, which is the role of the godparent in the truest sense of the word.

In the past, godparents were often seen as a child's legal guardians. Today, when godparents are named, it is an honorary position only. If you wish your child to have legal guardians, they must be named in your will. If you have chosen godparents, they are invited to come forward and stand with the parents/guardians at the baptism.



SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR BAPTISM

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Candidates

Profession of Faith and Promises

Congregational Commitment

Affirmation of Faith

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

The Act of Baptism:

Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

Blessing

Marking with the Sign of the Cross with oil

Laying on of hands

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

Presentation of Symbolic Gifts

Closing Blessing