

4.
Georgian Shores United Church
Baptismal Policy

"Go you therefore and baptize ... " (Matt 28:18)

Seeking to be faithful and responsible Christians, the congregation of Georgian Shores United Church provides the following guidelines regarding the sacrament of baptism.

1. Parents/guardians seeking baptism for their children shall be provided an opportunity to explore faith issues, in particular the nature of baptism. The importance for the baptized child to be nurtured and guided within a Christian faith community shall be emphasized. Parents/guardians should be encouraged at the time of baptism to reflect on their own membership. Normally at least one of the parents/guardians will be a participating member or active adherent of the church.
2. Candidates presenting themselves for adult baptism shall also be afforded an opportunity to explore faith issues, in particular the nature of baptism as a lifelong journey and expression of faith.
3. The congregation of Georgian Shores United Church shall be enabled in a variety of ways to participate in the ongoing lifelong journey of faith, which is shared by the baptized community. The congregation will be encouraged to take seriously its role of support and nurture and will be prepared to enter into a mutual relationship with the newly baptized.
4. When those requesting baptism are non-resident, every effort will be made to facilitate ongoing connections with a faith community in their own area.
5. As baptism is a sacrament of the gathered community, normally it will be celebrated during corporate worship.
6. The sacrament of baptism will be conducted in accordance with the general liturgical practices of the United Church of Canada. In addition to generous use of water and the laying on of hands, consideration will be given to other symbolic actions such as: anointing with oil, signing with the cross, and using a candle.
7. Within the context of congregational worship, an individual profession of faith and personal commitment to the life of the church will be encouraged of those baptized as children.
8. Our faith community at Georgian Shores United Church will provide opportunities for our entire family to affirm their covenantal faith on a variety of occasions and in relation to many life experiences.