

**Minnedosa United Church
Minnedosa, Manitoba**

GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM

Parents desiring Baptism for their children, or adults desiring Baptism for themselves, should contact the minister at the earliest opportunity. This will allow for decisions to be made by the Council of Minnedosa United Church, which meets only every other month. Dates for Baptism and Renewal of Baptismal Faith will be established by the Council of the Minnedosa United Church.

Normally, at least **one** of the parents (in the case where the Baptism is of an infant or a young child) will be a member in good standing of Minnedosa United Church, and in regular attendance at public worship.

When parents from Minnedosa who live away from the immediate district wish to return to Minnedosa United Church for the Baptism of their children, every effort will be made to establish a relationship with a congregation in the area where the family currently lives. In such cases, Minnedosa United Church would prefer to baptize on behalf of the family's "resident" congregation.

When such a baptism occurs, Minnedosa United Church congregation will be informed in advance, and will know which congregation of the United Church of Canada they are supporting in this action. A letter will be sent, informing the Council of the "resident" congregation of our action, and enclosing a copy of the Sunday bulletin with the evidence of the Baptism.

When a request for baptism of a child comes from a family not connected with the United Church of Canada or any other church, every effort will be made to connect that family to Minnedosa United Church congregation. This effort will take the form of a visit by the minister, and another visit by members of the congregation who live most near to the family concerned.

Adult candidates will be instructed by the minister or any other persons that the Council may determine, in the nature of Baptism and the obligations that accompany the Sacrament. Members of the Council may be involved in the preparation of the candidate.

The minister will offer an orientation session where the parents will be able to encounter the theology of Baptism, and its application to their particular situation. At such an event, the minister will be assisted by persons from the Charge who will share in the information giving, and in the subsequent service of Baptism.

Normal dates for baptism will be:

The baptism of Jesus – 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Easter Eve – Saturday before Easter

Pentecost – 7th Sunday after Easter

All Saints – nearest Sunday

Other dates established by the Council of Minnedosa United Church

Persons baptized in Minnedosa, whether adults or children, will become the responsibility of the Pastoral Charge, and will receive pastoral care, and encouragement to remain connected to the congregation. The people of Minnedosa will support the parents of baptized children, including those baptized elsewhere, through Christian Education programs, including Sunday School and Public Worship, and through regular prayer, both public and private.

At an appropriate age, young people will be encouraged to consider the claim of the Christian Church on their lives, to the end that they might seek baptism for themselves, or choose to renew their Baptismal faith.

In every normal case, the Council will have agreed to the Baptism, and in the case of the baptism of a person in danger of death, the Council will be notified by the minister at the earliest opportunity, in accordance with The Manual (010b).

Baptism will **normally** occur at a service of public worship in Minnedosa. If there are circumstances, such as the illness of a parent, which make a regular worship time inadvisable, members of the Pastoral Charge will accompany the minister to the home or hospital for the service of Baptism.

This policy will be reviewed by the Council at least every two (2) years.

These guidelines have been developed and approved by
the Council of Minnedosa United Church
April 2010