

**CHALMERS-CASTLE DOWNS  
UNITED CHURCH**  
12315-132 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5L 3P6  
Phone: 780-455-3664 Fax 780-732-0664

**BAPTISM INFORMATION**

In the United Church of Canada, baptism is considered one of two sacraments mandated by Jesus in the Gospels (the other being Communion).

“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. It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith and cleansing by the power of God. Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining, and transforming power of God’s love and our grateful response to that grace.” (*A Song of Faith, Manual 2019*, 2.6, p. 27)

In the 1970s, the United Church reached an ecumenical agreement with the Presbyterian, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Anglican churches in Canada that baptisms within these churches are mutually recognized as valid. Further to that, the United Church recognizes the validity of any baptism by another denomination that was performed with water and in the name of the trinity; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. (adapted from the United Church of Canada Website)

We encourage those seeking baptism to have or develop some connection to the Congregation. Such connection may be by way of membership, adherence, marriage, or family connections.

At least one of the parents/guardians, and those representing themselves for baptism at Chalmers-Castle Downs, are expected to give their affirmation to the required series of statements about the beliefs of the United Church. The Church Board is responsible for determining if baptism may proceed when this affirmation cannot be given.

The minister will take the name of the one to be baptized forward to the Faith & Worship Team. The team will then notify the Church Board.

A meeting will be set up between the interested party(ies) and the minister to discuss the meaning of baptism and to explain the baptism process. The Baptism will take place at an agreed upon Sunday Worship service. Baptisms take place during public worship except for those instances when it is a crisis situation. The Chair of the Church Board and/or a member (or members) of the Faith & Worship Team will be in attendance to represent the congregation. The required information regarding the person being baptized shall be entered into the Baptismal Register and a Certificate of Baptism will be provided.

Where it is not possible to secure the prior consent of the Church Board, the person administering the sacrament of baptism shall report such pastorally urgent or emergent decisions as may have been made in such cases to the next Faith & Worship Team meeting for information and to the following meeting of the Church Board for ratification.

*Approved by the Board on March 12, 2019*