

Baptism Guidelines

The Creston Church's pastor should expect anyone desiring baptism in the Creston Church by this pastor to be actively participating in the life of the Creston Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Only in special circumstances, as agreed upon by the pastor, in consultation with the Elders, will the sacrament of baptism in the Creston Church be extended to someone not actively involved in the Creston Christian Church. This may include allowing another church to use our baptistery for baptisms of individuals active in their church.

Except in some special circumstances such as cases of imminent death of a person seeking baptism, real threat of endangerment, or other instances deemed appropriate by the pastor of the Creston Christian Church, The Creston Church expects the fulfillment of certain other conditions in order that the Creston Church, or any other congregation using the Creston Church's facilities. Such includes, but may not be limited to:

- 1) maintains the theological and ecclesiological integrity of the sacrament of baptism,
- 2) enables the one seeking baptism toward a healthy life of newly emerging committed Christian faith.

Therefore, it will be the Creston Church's expectation for anyone seeking baptism in the Creston Church to:

- 1) affirm, with all honesty, they have never been baptized before, whether as an infant, child or adult, within any church community, Protestant or Roman Catholic.
- 2) agree to participate in at least 8 sessions with the Creston Church pastor so they might grow in an appropriate and healthy understanding of—
 - A. Christian baptism,
 - B. Christian faith and theology,
 - C. the history and traditions of church, specifically the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 - D. the diversity and development of the modern church—locally, nationally and globally—and our participation in the ecumenical relationships of the church beyond our immediate faith community (denomination, congregation, movement, etc.)
 - E. the responsibilities and opportunities of anyone who makes a commitment to a Christian life through the celebration of baptism,
 - F. life practices of faith including—keeping sabbath, discernment, hospitality, economics, healing, forgiveness, justice, care for creation, testimony, prayer, etc.
 - G. their place within the active life of the church community, and a commitment to such a relationship with God and other people,

In special circumstances where the person seeking baptism is not active in the Creston Church, or is seeking to be baptized by another minister who has asked to use our baptistery for this purpose, it will be our expectation that the person's pastor will:

1) present a letter in which states—

A. the person seeking baptism has never been baptized before, whether as an infant, child or adult, within any church community, Protestant or Roman Catholic.

B. the person seeking baptism is active in their home church,

C. baptism at the Creston Church is acceptable and appropriate according to the home church's official understandings of the Christian faith and the act of baptism,

D. the home church will affirm this baptism as authentic and authoritative,

E. the home church will commit to the work of nurturing this person's faith development after the baptism and recognize, with celebration, this person's full membership in the life of their home church.

2) agree to have at least two (2) members of the baptismal candidate's home church (who are NOT family members of the candidate) present at their baptism, to ensure a faithful connection between the celebration of their new life in Christ through baptism and the portion of God's family (the candidate's home church) who will seek to nurture this new life into maturity.

Anyone who would like to be present at the baptism is encouraged to attend.