

The Celebration of Baptism

Statement of Purpose

Sisters and Brothers, let us celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

**There is one body and one Spirit;
we have one hope in Christ.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God, Creator of us all.

Before conscious thought or action on our part, we are born into the brokenness of this world. Before conscious thought or action on our part, we are surrounded by God's redeeming love. 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. [from A Song of Faith, a statement of faith of the United Church of Canada, adopted by the 39th General Council, August, 2006]

Out of the water of baptism we rise with new life, forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.
Ephesians 4:4-6

Presentation of Candidates

On behalf of the congregation of Minden United Church, I present this person for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism: Ryan Patrick Coulson, son of Chris Coulson and Christine Coulson.

Profession of Faith and Promises

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

We do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

We will, God being our helper.

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

We will, God being our helper.

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

We will, God being our helper.

Will you share your faith with Ryan, growing with him in faith, hope, and love?

We will, God being our helper.

Commitment of Godparents

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support Ryan and his parents as they grow in faith?

We will, God being our helper.

Congregational Commitment (please stand)

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

A New Creed

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Act of Baptism and Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Ryan, I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Ryan, with the sign of the cross,

You become one with Christ, the Anointed One.

Laying On of Hands

The Holy Spirit be upon you and within you, Ryan, child of God, disciple of Christ and member of the Church.

Amen.

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

We welcome you as a member of God's family. We welcome you with love that you may learn to love. We welcome you with joy that you may learn of Christ's joy. We welcome you by your name that you may know who you are. We welcome you in Christ's name that you may know whose you are. You are a part of our family and will always find a welcome place here.

Prayer

O God, who loves and encourages us like a parent, be with these parents as they seek to live out the promises they have made here today. Be their strength during long nights, their courage during trying times, their wisdom in challenging times, their hope when chaos reigns, and their forgiveness when things have gone wrong. May we surround them with love and encouragement as they journey in faith with their child. May we provide a supportive community as they nurture the gift of faith within their family and as they offer to their child God's unconditional love. As followers of the way of Jesus we pray. Amen.