**East Plains United Church**

**Baptism Policy**

**Preamble:**

Through Baptism an individual is welcomed into the family of faith.

Matthew 28: 19

“go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

**Eligibility**

At East Plains United Church, Baptism is available to infants, children, and adults, upon request. Adults or adolescents who, in good faith can publicly respond to the promises, can be baptized. Parents of infants and young children are required to make the promises required by the United Church of Canada policy, on behalf of their children, in good conscience.

These vows include a commitment to teach the child, or have their child taught, the basic elements of the Christian faith, the meaning of baptism, the significance of belonging to a community of faith, and of discipleship. Parents are encouraged to share with their child the stories and teachings of the Bible, as well as stories of following the way of God.

As per the Manual of the United Church of Canada, the congregation of East Plains United Church joins with the parents of those baptized in pledging to form a community of love and support in which those being baptized will grow.

**Initial steps**:

Please contact the minister to arrange a meeting to discuss Baptism for yourself or your child.

**Fees:**

There is no fee for Baptism. Baptism is a community event which takes place during a regular worship service.

**Review**

This Baptism Policy was approved by the Worship and Sacrament Committee of East Plains United Church on November 23, 2022 and by the Official Board of East Plains United Church on November 29, 2022.

This policy is to be reviewed every five years, or as required.