

## **GPUC CONFIRMATION/ADULT BAPTISM INFORMATION**

### **Approved GPUC Council June 2016**

This document provides information about adult confirmation/baptism that is specific to Grosvenor Park United Church.

All of us are on a faith journey, whether we are 2 or 102. Some of us explore the possibility of being full participants in the faith expressed at Grosvenor Park United Church through Adult Baptism and/or Confirmation (that is confirming the decision of our caregivers to baptize us as children) in this place.

All adults are welcome to undertake the processes regardless of whether or not they choose to become baptized or confirmed at this time.

While in both the case of Adult Baptism and Confirmation we ask that the Holy Spirit bless the candidates, at Baptism in particular, water is also used in tradition of the Universal (catholic) Christian Church.

As you consider the information in this document and perhaps decide to engage with in the process of Confirmation/Adult Baptism, we would like to share with you the United Church of Canada's "Song Of Faith" to center your prayer and times of reflection:

**We sing of a church  
Seeking to continue the story of Jesus  
By embodying Christ's presence in the world.  
We are called together by Christ  
As a community of broken but hopeful believers,  
Loving what he loved,  
Living what he taught,  
Striving to be faithful servants of God  
In our time and place....  
The church has not always lived up to its vision.  
It requires the Spirit to reorient it,  
Helping it to live an emerging faith while honouring tradition,  
Challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement,  
For we are called to be a blessing to the earth.**

## **CONFIRMANDS/ADULT BAPTISM CANDIDATES**

Grosvenor Park United Church is pleased to walk with you on this part of your faith journey. We will do all we can to assist you in considering Confirmation/Adult Baptism into the United Church of Canada. Part of the process involves having a Faith Mentor. Please consider someone who is a non family member at Grosvenor Park United church that you would like to learn from. Please read the "MENTOR" eligibility descriptor in the next section for further clarification.

### **Eligibility**

*We invite individuals who are at least 18 years of age at the date of Confirmation or over to consider Confirmation/Adult Baptism. Individuals must be attending Grosvenor Park United Church.*

### **Expectations**

- that you will attend ALL confirmation classes (Although the curriculum may change, there will be a minimum of 4 two hour classes);
- that you will participate in worship leadership at least once during the year by preparing and/or leading prayers during worship, scripture reading, and take an active role in the Confirmation/Adult Baptism Sunday, including sharing of your faith statement;
- that you will keep a journal with questions that arise for you during the week, and if you wish to share them, that you feel free to do so; and
- that you will keep mentors informed of what is happening, and meet with them at least twice.

*The most important elements of the process for Confirmands/Adult Baptism Candidates are to learn to think critically and be able to articulate your current faith and questions.*

You and your mentor may decide together to engage in one of the following activities (suggestions only):

- During the week, think about questions that arise out of what you see in the world. Discuss them together.
- See a film together. What is this film trying to say about the world, love, mercy, compassion, grace? Do you like the underlying message in the film?
- Visit a food bank or volunteer together: (For example: go and help out a neighbour, then discuss the act of giving up your own time to help someone. How does volunteering benefit you and those you are helping?)
- Attend a different church together. What did you like or not like about the worship? How was it different? How did you feel welcomed or not welcomed?
- Attend a funeral or visit a cemetery together. Discuss your own views on death and resurrection.
- Attend a baptism. What does baptism mean for you?

## MENTORS

Thank you for participating as a mentor in our confirmation class. You are helping Grosvenor Park United Church live out its baptismal promises.

### Eligibility

*It is important to note that a mentor in this confirmation process is not one who knows all the answers or one who can cite vast numbers of scripture references from memory. A mentor is a **non family** member who has a genuine faith and who is involved in trying to grow in that faith daily; one who is willing to share their strong United Church (not necessarily exclusive UCC) experiences and faith journey with another person; and is an active adherent/member of GPUC.*

### Expectations

- that you will attend the first information meeting, and one other class during the process;
- that you will meet with the confirmand/adult baptism candidate at least two times outside of confirmation classes for informal discussions, or activities; and
- that you will take an active role in the Confirmation/Adult Baptism service (normally this would mean participating in the laying on of hands).

### Guidelines

Before your first meeting, reflect on your present faith journey. You may choose to meet with the confirmand/adult baptism candidate in a neutral place, at church, or a cafe. Any where that you would both feel comfortable would be fine. You may use this outline for your first meeting:

Find out as much as you can about each other. You may use the following questions:

- Tell me about your family.
- What was it like growing up?
- What are some of your best memories?
- What was one of your sad memories?
- What is/was school like for you?
- What is one thing you really like about your life today?
- What are your hopes for the future.

Begin talking about your life in the church. Have you always attended church? How often? What is important about being part of the church? When did you first know you were Christian? How would you be different if you were not?

Further activities/suggestions for spending time with each other:

- During the week, think about questions that arise out of what you see in the world. Discuss them together.

- See a film together. What is this film trying to say about the world, love, mercy, compassion, grace? Do you like the underlying message in the film?
- Visit a food bank or volunteer together: (For example: go and help out a neighbour, then discuss the act of giving up your own time to help someone. How does volunteering benefit you and those you are helping?)
- Attend a different church together. What did you like or not like about the worship? How was it different? How did you feel welcomed or not welcomed?
- Attend a funeral or visit a cemetery together. Discuss your own views on death and resurrection.
- Attend a baptism. What does baptism mean for you?

These activities are just a few ideas to help get things started together. If you have any other suggestions of activities, please speak with the minister who would love to hear these ideas.

### **CLASS LEADERSHIP**

The leader(s) of the class will set the tone for the group and create a safe place to explore their faith. Class size and duration will dictate the need for one or two leaders. Should participant numbers exceed 4, a second leader will be provided to assist in leading the class.

#### **Expectations**

- that they are members of the United Church of Canada;
- that they will submit bulletin announcements to invite people to Adult Baptism/Confirmation Classes;
- that the main leader will be prepared for each class;
- that in consultation with participants, decisions will be made if a class date needs changing, and keep everyone will be kept informed of changes;
- that they will keep confirmands in their prayers;
- that they will listen to any concerns raised;
- that they will not ask others to do what they themselves are not prepared to do;
- that all participant material submitted will be carefully and thoughtfully read.

### **THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

This committee will respond to inquiries regarding Confirmation/Adult Baptism classes in consultation with the minister and the Worship Committee. They will also update this document should modifications be made. Curriculum will be determined as resources are available.

#### **Expectations**

- to oversee the confirmation/adult baptism process & curriculum;
- to find leadership for the class;

- to communicate with the worship committee the status of any candidates; and
- to provide a budget for Confirmation/Adult Baptism Curriculum and supplies.

### **THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

This committee takes participants/candidates through the final steps of self-discernment should they wish to be confirmed/baptized.

#### **Expectations**

- to set a date for Confirmation/Adult Baptism;
- to notify Church Council of the names of those who wish to be confirmed/baptized;
- to ask if the candidate would like to be confirmed/baptized;
- to develop a process to “interview Candidates” to explore what they have learned, what they liked or did not like about the process. It is to be noted that this is not meant to be an exam, but a further faith exploration; and
- to provide budget for confirmation/ Adult baptism certificates and/or gifts.

### **TOPICS FOR EXPLORATION**

*The following topics will be explored (the depth of exploration may be tailored to the individuals involved):*

- What we Believe about Jesus Christ (pre/post Easter Jesus)
- What we believe about God
- What We believe about the Bible
- Discipleship, Justice (Christian Ethics) & Salvation
- Inclusive Language
- Celebrating the Sacraments
- Prayer
- Role of the Church
- 20 articles of Faith; 3 United Church Creeds
- What Membership means
- Time with Worship Committee.
- Planning for Confirmation/Adult Baptism Service
- Mid-Class Evaluation & Final Evaluation

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact or leave a message for Nobuko.

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