

POLICIES OF NORTH PARK CHURCH PERTAINING TO WATER BAPTISM

I. The baptism of covenant children (children of believers)

Excepting extraordinary circumstances involving medical crises, covenant children will be baptized by water at worship services of the church. Arrangements will be made through the Sr. Pastor with the intention that the baptism be carried out as soon as it is fitting for the family involved and for the worship calendar. Water baptisms will only be executed for a parent(s) who is an active member in good standing at NPC. One such parent is sufficient.

Parents seeking baptism for their child will be expected (for first-timers) to listen to a recording or read a booklet on the grounds and meaning of covenant baptism and a review of the vows they will be taking. In some cases, parents will be asked to meet with a pastor to discuss the baptism decision and commitments.

Non-members requesting baptism for their child will normally be denied, with polite explanation, or encouraged to first become members of the church. Cases deemed exceptional (often involving relocations and military situations) may be approved by the Session.

II. The baptism of those professing faith

Those who desire to be baptized by water on the basis of their own profession, regardless of age, must first be interviewed and approved by at least two elders in order to hear and assess the profession of faith. Normally, this would occur at the time someone becomes a confirmed member, but may also precede such upon approval by Session.

North Park will not rebaptize anyone. Individuals who have previously experienced "baptism" may apply for baptism at North Park with explanation of why they believe their previous "baptism" was not valid. Those "baptized" as children in the Roman Catholic church are allowed to either validate or invalidate their childhood "baptism" based upon their own conviction.