

Baptism initiates us into the Christian life. Baptism redirects our lives to the life of God's reign in and through all. As such, baptism entails a life-long commitment to serving God.

Along the way, we go through times of growth and deepening of commitment. We celebrate and mark these times as a community through such things as re-affirmation of faith, confirmation, ordination, or baptism for our child.



Preparing for each of these rites is an important step on the life-long journey of faith. The Ministers and the St. Andrews community are fellow pilgrims who can offer mutual support and guidance along the well.

The process for preparation includes these four phases:

- inquiry and welcome
- formation
- preparing for a rite of initiation
- integration

### The *Becoming Disciples* process is for:

- youth and adults seeking meaning and fullness in life;
- people wanting to find out more about the Christian life;
- people wanting to grow into all God means them to be;
- people seeking baptism, confirmation or renewal of faith;
- parents bringing children for baptism.

### What do participants do?

- experience warm hospitality;
- explore questions about the Christian life;
- hear the good news of Jesus Christ;
- participate in and reflect on worship;
- explore Christian beliefs – linking God's story with their own story;
- have a companion who supports them one-to-one as they grow;
- develop a personal devotional life;
- identify their gifts of ministry and being to use those gifts.

While the four phases of the process may be the same, the shape they take is as unique as those who participate in them. Working with the Ministers, you can design a specially tailored process that will take into consideration your life experiences and interests. All you need to do is begin the conversation.

## Beginning the Conversation

We would like to get to know you and give you the opportunity to ask questions.

Please provide the following information so we can contact you:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your reason for making this contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Minister: Rev. Christine Gilbert

### **Phase 1: Inquiry and welcome**

Whether you are new to St. Andrews or a very familiar face, it can be valuable to share with the congregation where you are on your pilgrimage of faith. During a regular worship service, we will celebrate the step you are taking and offer prayers. This will enable your community to be mindful of you and to support you during this time.

### **Phase 2: Formation**

Catechumen is an ancient church word that refers to someone who is being instructed in the faith. The Greek root of the word means “echo.” Through an intentional process of formation, it is our prayer that the way of Jesus will echo in all of life.

As a catechumen, you may choose to explore ways of reading scripture, praying, and encouraging your devotional life. You may have specific questions about how to integrate your faith into different parts of your world. You may want to discover your God-given talents and how to use them to serve Christ. Or perhaps you want to know more about St. Andrews and the Uniting Church.

This time will also include a companion – someone from the church who will walk alongside you through this process. This person will uplift you with prayer and ongoing support.

### **Phase 3: Preparing for a specific rite**

Following the time of formation, you may decide you want to celebrate your renewed faith with a ritual or sacrament. The process will depend upon the ritual or sacrament you choose. It may be as simple as scheduling a time for the ritual in worship such as for a re-affirmation of baptism. Or it may be as involved as seeking education and the processes of the wider church for something like ordination.

The first step is to communicate your hopes with a Minister. We will then speak with you about the process that fits your request.

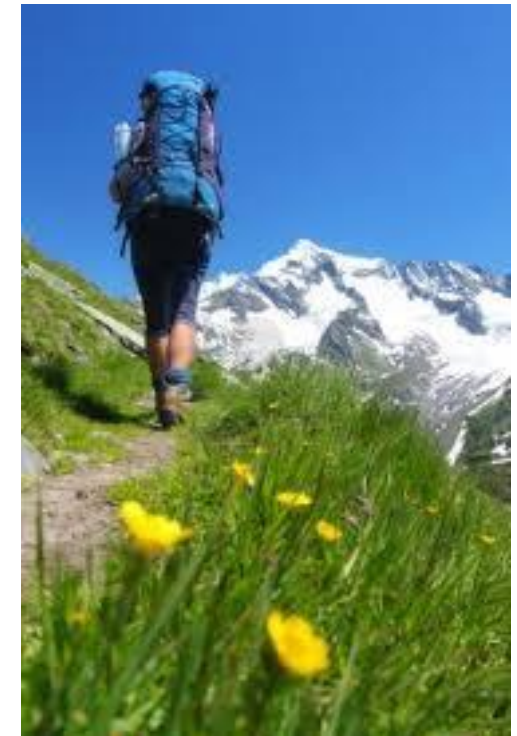
### **Phase 4: Integration**

It is our hope that the process will have deepened your personal faith and created a stronger connection with the community that has been supporting you. We will consider ways to continue the good work started in you by the Spirit in this time and that you will found new relationships and a renewed heart for ministry.



# ***Becoming Disciples***

*deepen your faith  
connect with your community  
renew your spiritual life*



*a process for those preparing  
for baptism, confirmation  
re-affirmation of faith  
and other sacred rituals along the way*