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BAPTISM

AN INVITATION FOR TEENS

 PARENTS AS MENTORS 

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches that those who put their faith in Him as Lord and Savior should publicly display that commitment through baptism. This pamphlet gives information about our church's baptism preparation process for teens and asks you to consider with your teen if he or she is ready for baptism. We hope the baptism preparation process will both encourage your teen to embrace more fully his or her faith in God and impart a solid Christian foundation for living in the world today.

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| Invitation and Consideration | FEB |
| Mentor's Orientation Meeting | MARCH 3, 7:30P |
| Parent Sessions with Teens | MARCH-APRIL |
| Sharing Meeting | APR 30, 12:30P |
| Baptism Interview | MAY 7, 2ND HR |
| Baptism Service | MAY 14, 2017 |

PURPOSES OF THE PROCESS

- *Glorify Christ and the redeeming work of the cross.*
 - *Help discern the candidate's readiness for baptism.*
 - *Involve the spiritual leader of the home in the preparation process.*
 - *Provide the candidate with another opportunity to embrace the Lord in a decisive and memorable way.*
 - *Inspire the candidate to live in obedience and faithfulness to the Lord.*
 - *Provide an opportunity for the immediate family and the wider community of believers to publicly affirm, support, encourage, and pray for the candidate.*
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Our Baptism Process includes the following steps:

1. INVITATION & CONSIDERATION

February

Parents should talk with their teen about his or her readiness for baptism. The following questions can help assess their readiness: Have they invited Jesus Christ into their lives as Savior and Lord? Can they articulate how they came to be a Christian and what it means to be a Christian? If so, the parents and teens should prayerfully consider baptism now. If not, the parents should help their teen understand the gospel message and accept it for themselves so they will be ready for baptism at a later date.

Candidates under age 18 must have the consent of their parents before beginning the preparation process. Consent is necessary even if the candidate's parents are not believers.

Baptism Response Form for Parents of Teens

Teen Name: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Parent or Guardian phone number and email address _____

Please fill out this form, detach it, and return it to Pastor Mike's mailbox or sign up online via the link at www.tcccc.org/teen-baptism-signup-by-friday-jan-15.

- I believe my son or daughter is ready to begin preparation for baptism
- I am planning to attend the Mentor Orientation Meeting on Friday Jan 22, 7:30-9:30p
- I have already attended the Mentor Orientation Meeting for another child
- We are not ready to begin baptism preparation at this time. Please notify me when the next preparation cycle begins.
- I would like to talk to one of the Pastors more about what baptism is, how to know if my teen is ready for baptism, or another topic

5. BAPTISM INTERVIEW

May 7, Second Hour

Baptism candidates individually meet with Pastor Mike and/or others to affirm their readiness for baptism. If the baptism interview team recommends the candidate continue, the candidate's baptism is scheduled for an upcoming service.

6. BAPTISM SERVICE

Sunday May 14, 9:50a

As the church gathers, we will baptize those who have gone through this baptism preparation process, showing our unity with Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

As indicated previously, the Mentor's Orientation Meeting is Friday, March 3. We encourage you to discuss baptism with your teen and prayerfully consider their readiness. Whether or not you plan to participate at this time, please complete and return the enclosed Baptism Response Form **by Friday Feb 24**.

At the Mentor Orientation Meeting, we will discuss a Baptism Preparation Mentor's Guide that will walk you through the steps to prepare your teen for baptism. If you would like to receive the Mentor's Guide ahead of time, let us know.

Serving as a baptism preparation mentor requires a significant commitment on your part, but we pray you will find the investment of time a great blessing to you, to your teen and to your relationship with each other.

Please contact us if you have questions or would like to discuss this further. You can contact us via phone (651-644-9321), email (MikeGin@tcccc.org, Pastor.Mma@tcccc.org, Pastor.Har@tcccc.org, Tim.Haas@tcccc.org) or in person. May the Lord bless you as you train up your child in the ways they should go.

2. MENTOR'S ORIENTATION MEETING

Friday, March 3, 7:30-9:50p

Each candidate has a mentor. Most often this mentor is the candidate's father—if he is a believer and living in the home. If not, the candidate's mother, grandparent, or another mature believer may assume this responsibility. If neither parent is a believer, the candidate selects a mentor who can lead him through the preparation process and encourage the young person in his walk with the Lord following baptism.

This orientation meeting will help prepare mentors for their significant role in the preparation process. (This meeting is for mentors only; candidates do not attend this meeting).

3. MENTOR'S INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS WITH CANDIDATES

March through April

Mentors are encouraged to have at least six separate one-on-one sessions with the candidate over the course of about seven weeks. Mentors will receive a guide that details the goals and process of leading the young person through each of these sessions. During this time, mentors determine if the candidate should continue in the preparation process or should be encouraged to wait.

4. SHARING MEETING

Sunday, April 30, 12:50p (lunch provided)

During this session, mentors and candidates meet as a group with one or two church leaders. Candidates share their testimonies and review the meaning of baptism. At the end of this session, each candidate and his mentor indicate whether or not the candidate is ready to be baptized.