**The Baptismal Covenant I**

*Holy Baptism of a Child or an Adult*

*Book of Worship page 86*

# INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

# DEACON

It is our joy this morning to celebrate the baptism of *Name.* Congregational responses may be found on *appropriate page in UMH or on insert.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the sacrament of Baptism

We are initiated into Christ’s holy Church.

We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation And given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price.

**PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES**

I present *First Name Middle Name Last Name* for Christian baptism.

**RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

# ELDER

*Ask the parents/sponsors (if candidate is unable to answer) or candidate:*

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, Reject the evil powers of this world, And repent of your sin?

**I do.**

**ELDER** Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you

To resist evil, injustice, and oppression In whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

Put your whole trust in his grace,

And promise to serve him as your Lord,

In union with the Church which Christ has opened To all people?

**I do.**

*For infants and small children, address parents or sponsors.*

Will you nurture this child

In Christ’s holy Church,

That by your teaching and example they may be guided

To accept God’s grace for themselves

To profess their faith openly, And to lead a Christian life?

**I will.**

[OR

*For those who can answer for themselves*

*According to the grace given to you,*

*Will you remain a faithful member of Christ’s holy church and serve as Christ’s representative in the world?*

***I will]***

*Turn and address congregation.*

Do you, as Christ’s body, the Church, Reaffirm both your rejection of sin And your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this person now before you in your care?

**With God’s help we will proclaim the good news And live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround *Name***

**With a community of love and forgiveness, That he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,**

**That he may be a true disciple**

**Who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**Is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**And will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, [the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting.]**

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER DEACON

*Hands up in the orans*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, You swept across the dark waters And brought forth light.

In the days of Noah

You saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, You led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan To the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

**Tell of God’s mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, Nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples

To share in the baptism of his death and resurrection, And to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

*Hands down. Pour water into the fount.*

# ELDER

*Hands down over the water (or even in it, letting it run through your fingers)*

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

To bless this gift of water and all those who receive it,

To wash away their sin

And clothe them in righteousness

Throughout their lives,

That, dying and being raised with Christ, They may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal God,**

**Through your Son Jesus Christ,**

**Who with you and the Holy Spirit Lives and reigns forever, Amen.**

**BAPTISM WITH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*Transfer baby or pick up child or lead candidate to the fount. NAME* I baptize you in the name of the Father, *(water)* the Son, *(water),*  and the Holy Spirit *(water)*. **Amen.**

*Place hands on candidate.*

The Holy Spirit work within you,

That being born through water and the Spirit, You may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

## DEACON

Now it is our joy to welcome our new *sibling* in Christ.

**Through baptism**

**You are incorporated by the Holy Spirit**

**Into God’s new creation**

**And made to share in Christ’s royal priesthood.**

**We are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you As members of the family of Christ.**

**RECEPTION INTO the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ELDER**

***See page 93 in BOW for those coming into membership in the UMC from other denominations or those transferring their membership into the UMC together with those who through baptism or confirmation have just professed their own faith.***

As members of Christ’s universal church, will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

**I will.**

**RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION**

***See page 93 in BOW***

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

**I will.**

**COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

Members of the household of God,

I commend these persons to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase their faith,

Confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**The congregation responds:**

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,**

**We renew our covenant**

**Faithfully to participate**

**in the ministries of the church**

**By our prayers, our presence, our gifts,**

**our service, and our witness.**

**That in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit that you may live in grace and peace.