CERTIFICATE
OF BAPTISM

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CERTIFICATE
OF BAPTISM

Be it known that

_____

of _____

received

Christian Baptism

on _____, _____,

at _____

_____

_____
Pastor

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Holy Baptism

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

As persons are coming forward, an appropriate hymn of baptism or confirmation may be sung.

The pastor makes the following statement to the congregation:

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 CANDIDATES

A representative of the congregation presents the candidates:

I present..... for baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The pastor addresses parents or other sponsors and those candidates who can answer for themselves:

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.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

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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 people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

The pastor addresses parents or other sponsors of candidates not able to answer for themselves:

Will you nurture *these children (persons)*
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.

The pastor addresses candidates who can answer for themselves:

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain *faithful members* of Christ's holy church
and serve as Christ's *representatives* in the world?

I will.

If those who have answered for themselves have sponsors, the pastor addresses the sponsors:

Will you who sponsor *these candidates*
support and encourage *them* in *their* Christian life?

I will.

The pastor addresses the 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 *these persons* 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 *these persons*
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that *they* may grow in *their* trust of God,
and be found faithful in *their* service to others.
We will pray for *them*,
that *they* may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.

The pastor addresses all:

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.]

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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

The water may be poured into the font at this time, and the following prayer offered:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:
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.

**universal*

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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
to bless this gift of water and *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 Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns for ever.
Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

As each candidate is baptized, the pastor says:

....., I baptize you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The people respond:

Amen.

Immediately after the administration of the water, the pastor, and others if desired, place hands on the head of each candidate, as the pastor says to each:

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

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The people respond:

Amen.

When all candidates have been baptized, the pastor invites the congregation to welcome them:

Now it is our joy to welcome our new *sisters and brothers* 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.

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