



## *Sacrament of Baptism Assisting Elder Guidelines*

*Before the baptism, the Worship Coordinator mails a letter to the Assisting Elder with the following instructions:*

1. Before the service, check the baptismal font; if it is empty, add warm water.
2. Reserve the two front left/pulpit side rows for the family/friends of the family of the child being baptized.
3. The pastor, assisting Elder and Baptism Buddy meet the family in the MacNair Parlor approximately 15 minutes prior to the worship service.
4. During the worship service, as the *Gloria Patri* is being sung, the Elder, leading the family, goes into the sanctuary and stands by the baptismal font. The Elder and Baptism Buddy on the lectern side, and the family on the pulpit side.
5. After the *Gloria Patri*, the pastor introduces the sacrament, then introduces the Elder and asks the Elder to present the family. Suggested wording:

**“It is the joy and calling of Christian parents to present their children for the sacrament of baptism in which we all claim God’s covenant promises. I am pleased to present (*names of child’s parents*) and their son/daughter, (*name of child being baptized*).”**

6. The pastor follows with words about baptism and asks the parents questions.
7. The pastor then asks the Elder to place the following question before the congregation:

**“Do you, members and friends of this congregation, promise on behalf of the church universal, to guide and give Christian nurture to (*name of child being baptized*), and his/her parents by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him/her to know and follow Christ and be a faithful member of His Church? If you so promise, please stand.”**

8. Then the pastor gives a prayer and administers the sacrament of baptism.
9. The pastor takes the child and introduces him/her to the congregation.
10. After returning the child to his/her parents, the choir and congregation sing a baptism hymn, after which the Elder takes the family out of the sanctuary.