APPENDIX 1.10

BAPTISM POLICY

We believe that baptism is

- a gift from God and a mark of our membership in the body of Christ.;
- a response to the call to become followers of Jesus Christ;
- a spiritual commitment involving God and the whole body of Christ.

The sacrament of baptism is an act of God's Grace that involves the faith community. Baptisms are normally held as part of a Sunday morning worship service. At Grace United Church we take seriously our part in the sacrament of baptism. We are responsible for the preparation of baptismal candidates, the act of baptism and the ongoing Christian development of baptized children and adults.

Preparation
Upon the first request for a baptism the parents or legal guardians of the child, or the adult being baptized, will be asked to meet with the Christian Development minister for a pre-baptismal session. If a baptism for a second child is requested there is no need to repeat this session.

Out Of Town
People who live out of town and request a baptism at Grace United Church will be asked to meet with a United Church minister close to where they live or meet with the Christian Development minister at a mutually convenient time.

Location
Since baptism is a sacrament, all baptisms will be performed during the regular worship service. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the minister, for circumstances such as when a baby is fatally ill.

Approval
Upon completion of baptismal preparation the name of the baptismal candidate will be brought before the Grace United Church Council for approval.