

HOLY VOWS OF BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

<https://globalmethodist.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Transitional-Discipline.20211010-1.pdf>

316. BAPTISMAL VOWS. In faithfulness with early Christian practice as well as the Wesleyan tradition, those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism within the Global Methodist Church shall first be asked the following questions:

- (1) Do you renounce the devil and all his works, and reject the evil powers of this world?
I renounce them.
- (2) Do you repent of your sin, turn to Jesus Christ, and confess Him as your Lord and Savior? ***I do.***
- (3) Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments? ***I do.***
- (4) Do you accept the responsibility to resist evil, injustice, and oppression by the grace and power of God? ***I do.***
- (5) Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life by the grace and power of God? ***I will.***

Those who present candidates for Holy Baptism who are unable to answer for themselves will also be asked this question:

Question to parents or guardians:

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, profess their faith openly, and lead a Christian life? ***I (We) will.***

The congregation is then asked to affirm their commitment to support the baptismal candidate in the faith.

Question to the congregation:

Will you who witness these vows encourage [these persons] in the faith and do all in your power to support [these persons] in [their] life in Christ? ***We will.***

Baptismal candidates (or those presenting candidates unable to answer for themselves) are then asked to confess their faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Question to baptismal candidates or those presenting candidates for baptism:

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.]

319. VOWS OF MEMBERSHIP. In addition to taking the vows of baptism (§ 316) those wishing to become professing members of the Global Methodist Church shall be asked the following questions before being received into the church:

- (1) Do you believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit?
- (2) Do you confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord?
- (3) Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures?
- (4) Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of your life as a faithful member of Christ's holy church?
- (5) Will you be loyal to Christ through **HIGHLANDS CHURCH** and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness as Christ's representative in this world?

320. GROWTH IN FAITHFUL DISCIPLESHIP. Faithful membership in the local church is essential for personal growth and for developing a deeper commitment to the will and grace of God. As members involve themselves in private and public prayer, worship, the sacraments, study, Christian action, systematic giving, and holy discipline, they grow in their appreciation of Christ, understanding of God at work in history and the natural order, and an understanding of themselves. Faithful discipleship includes the obligation to participate in the corporate life of the congregation with fellow members of the body of Christ. A member is bound in sacred covenant to shoulder the burdens, share the risks, and celebrate the joys of fellow members. A Christian is called to speak the truth in love, always ready to confront conflict in the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.