

## Preparing for Baptism

### ■ We're excited for you!

Your decision to turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the most important decision you will ever make. Following your personal commitment to submit your life to the Lordship of Christ, an important next step in your spiritual journey is to be obedient in believer's baptism. This will be a special moment in your life and your faith family, The Church at Brook Hills, looks forward to worshipping and celebrating with you at your baptism. This document has been prepared to outline for you the steps you need to take in preparing for your baptism.

### ■ Understand the meaning of baptism.

According to the Bible, baptism:

- ▶ Publically demonstrates your identification with Christ (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:4-5; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12). You are showing the work of Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection—and your participation in that work by God's grace
- ▶ Visibly declares your deliverance from the judgment of God (1 Peter 3:18-21).
- ▶ Displays your union with Christ's body, His church (Acts 2:26-41; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:3-6).
- ▶ Follows both the example (Matthew 3:13-17) and the command of Christ (Matthew 28:19).

Thus, baptism is a celebration of the grace of Christ in your life that has occurred through salvation. It is an external celebration of an internal transformation. We are celebrating what God has done by his grace.

### ■ Speak with an elder.

Prior to scheduling your baptism, you will need to make an appointment to meet with an elder or deacon to share how you came to trust in Christ and why you desire to be baptized. This is a very important meeting in that it will help you clarify any questions that you may have about what it means to be saved by grace and what a biblical response to the gospel looks like in your life. This personal conversation will also help prepare you for your video declaration. To speak with an elder or deacon, visit the Access Corner following a Worship Gathering.

Name of Elder/Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### ■ Schedule your baptism.

At your baptism, you will have the opportunity to publicly share with your church family and to the world your personal decision to submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. You will work with our Communications Ministry Team to prepare this video. Don't be nervous – even if you are “camera shy”, our video crew will make this an enjoyable process for you. Turn the page for helpful guidelines to prepare for the video segment of your baptism. **Please complete this preparation guide and bring it with you to the video recording.**

After you have met with an elder or deacon to share your personal response to the gospel, contact Anita Bucher in the Pastoral Offices to schedule your video and baptism, 313-7720, [abucher@brookhills.org](mailto:abucher@brookhills.org).

Video Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Prepare your testimony.

You will have an opportunity, in your baptism video, to share how God's grace was made evident in your life through a personal response to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prior to preparing a summary of what you will say, take some time to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your words so that all those who will be present at your baptism will hear and respond to the gospel. Your recounting of the gospel can actually lead another person to trust in Christ. The questions below may be used as a helpful guide to prepare what you will say during the video recording.

- What is your understanding of who God is? What is God like?

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- How did you come to the realization that you were guilty before God and separated from God? What separated you from God?

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- How has the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ overcome your guilt and separation?

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- How have you responded to the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection?

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- What circumstances and people influenced your decision to trust in Christ?

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- Why do you want to be baptized?

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Now that you have thought through your responses, combine them into a simple paragraph below. Be sure to practice what you plan to say before you come to the video recording. Begin by stating your name and your age. Close your declaration with why you desire to be baptized. Other resources to assist you are available at [brookhills.org/baptism](http://brookhills.org/baptism).

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