

### **What is Baptism?**

The purpose of water baptism is a scriptural requirement of one's obedient witness and symbolic and spiritual identification with Jesus Christ's death. You are not being baptized into the Rock Church but into the Body of Christ universal. Baptism does not save the believer but is instead an outward symbolic representation of the inward work of grace through faith. The Great Commission instructs the followers of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:19-20).

### **Who Should Be Baptized?**

If you've made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ in repenting of your sins and receiving Jesus into your heart by faith, we encourage you to follow Jesus' command to be baptized as a public profession of your faith in Him.

### **Baptism Service**

You can pre-register online or register on-site at one of the upcoming scheduled baptisms. At the baptism service there will be a time of worship and a short message given to explain the Biblical understanding of baptism. After a closing prayer, participants are invited into the water to be baptized by a Rock Church pastoral team leader. You can also contact the Pastoral Care office at the Rock Church if you have additional needs or questions.

A leader will be discussing with the individuals being baptized his or her conversion experience. It is essential that there is a definite Christian testimony. Leadership will also provide personal encouragements for the participants on possible next steps for growth, Biblical discipleship, and community group and ministry involvement. We will then pray with the individual and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit according to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 28:19.

If family members are present in the water, they are welcome to be included as part of the testimony, counsel and prayer if desired.

If children desire to be baptized we will want to include a parent or guardian in the testimony, counsel and prayer. There is a Rock Kids class on baptism for children 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in which they are requested to participate before the baptism. Children will be asked for their understanding of faith in Jesus Christ and baptism.

We ask that you wear dark colored clothes over your swimsuit. Modest swimwear is recommended. You will need to bring a towel, and any extra clothes that you may want to change into after you are finished with the baptism.