**Pastoral**

**Services**

**Affirmation of Baptism/**

**Reception of New Members:**

**A Public Profession of Faith**

The order for Affirmation of Baptism is to be used when individuals who have been baptized previously make a public profession of faith for the first time, are returning to the church after a period of estrangement, or desire to celebrate a marked growth in faith.

The Affirmation of Faith as outlined here assumes that the individuals are youth or adults of responsible years who are willing to mark their progress on the Christian journey with this public profession of faith and to declare their intention to join fully in the life of the church and its mission in the world. This service is not intended for baptized children who are admitted to the Lord's Table at an early age. It is customary for Presbyterians to affirm their baptism by publicly professing their faith before re­ceiving voting privileges in a congregation or being eligible to hold office.

The Affirmation of Baptism properly belongs within the regular, public service of Word and Sacraments on Sunday. Normally, it will come after the sermon as a response to the proclamation of the Word. On occasion, it may be more appropriate following the Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon.

Because of its close association with the Sacrament of Baptism, there are occasions when adults may be affirming their baptism (making public profession of faith) at the same time that children or adults are being baptized. For that reason, A Combined Order for the Sacrament of Baptism and the Affirmation of Baptism has been provided.

**Affirmation of Baptism: A Public Profession of Faith**

**Reception of New Members**

**An Outline**

 The Presentation

 Renunciation and Affirmation

 Thanksgiving and Intercession

 The Blessing

 The Charge