SESSION POLICY REGARDING BAPTISM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
Approved by the Session on March 27, 1996

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe, New Mexico, taking seriously its responsibility for the sacrament of Baptism according to the Book of Order--Directory for Worship (W-2.3012) will consider requests for the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism according to the following policy:

The Session will arrange for appropriate instruction of parents or one(s) rightly exercising parental responsibility, acquainting them with the significance of what God is doing in this baptismal act, and with the special responsibilities of parents and congregations for nurturing the baptized person in the Christian life.

The Session will make sure all those making an initial public profession of faith and joining the church are admitted to Baptism first.

The Session will place all baptized persons on the appropriate roll as members of this congregation or of the congregation on whose behalf the Baptism is celebrated.

The Session will make certain that those baptized are nurtured in understanding the meaning of Baptism, of the Lord’s Supper, and of their interrelation, and that they are surrounded by Christian encouragement and support.

The Session will ordinarily require that, when the one presented for Baptism is a child, one parent or the one(s) rightly exercising parental responsibility shall be an active member of the congregation or

The Session may also consider a request for the baptism of a child from a Christian parent (or one rightly exercising parental responsibility) who is an active member of another congregation. If the Session approves such a request, it shall consult with the governing body of the other congregation and shall notify them when the sacrament has been administered.

When the Session is unable to consider a request for baptism because the circumstances would not allow the Session to fulfill its responsibilities to the baptized person (such as when parents have no church affiliation), the Session will offer pastoral care and instruction to the family to assist them in making decisions about the Christian nurture of their children to the end that they might be prepared for Baptism in the future, should they so choose.