

Tuesdays Table

Can my baptism be invalidated by my sexuality or anything else?

The purpose of this resource is to help guide your engagement of the “Tuesdays at the Table” conversation. This is merely a frame for the conversation you’ll have or the raw materials to shape a conversation unique for the table you’re sitting at.

As you participate in the conversation...

- **Keep an open mind.**
- **Stay curious.**
- **Look for new ideas.**
- **Speak from your heart.**
- **Respect the ideas of others.**

Access a video of the “Can my baptism be invalidated by my sexuality or anything else?” conversation [here](#).

“The love of God is not predicated on our understanding.”

The Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, Union Church Boston

Let us pray.

With joy we shall draw water from the wells of salvation. – *Isaiah 12:3*

Guiding questions.

- How is baptism a sacred act and an “ordinary” way of marking the work of God in the world?
- John Wesley describes water as an ordinary means of God’s grace. How is baptism both ordinary and extraordinary?
- What are you freed from or freed to through baptism?
- How is baptism a ritual of welcoming?
- Dr. Williams speaks of baptism within a community as “being initiated, brought together into a sacred, sacramental community.” What has been your experience of the church as a community of diverse voices being brought together?
- Once someone is baptized, is there anything that can reverse or declare it invalid?
- Dr. Williams said, “There is nothing that can invalidate or reverse what God is doing.” Where do you see the church affirming this statement? Where do you see the church rejecting this statement?
- What makes the baptismal covenant different from a promise?
- How can our understanding of baptism impact our thinking about the future of the church?

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Take action.

- Tell your small group the story of your baptism. What aspects were meaningful to you? What made those aspects meaningful?
- Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to support the work of others. Find an organization whose ministry is to extend the table and support them in some way.
- Speak to your pastor about a reaffirmation of Baptism and offer to help them plan that worship experience.
- Read the baptismal covenants in the *UM Book of Worship* or the *UM Hymnal* and discuss them in your small group. What are some differences and similarities in the versions? What are the major movements in the liturgy?
- Baptism is both “the hope and the future that is promised to us.” Read Romans 8:38-39 and reflect on the promise of God that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God. Make a plan to share the promise of Romans 8:38-39 with someone you think needs to hear that good news.

Resources.

“[A Report of the Baptism Study Committee](#)”, December 19, 2008.

By Water and the Spirit by Gayle Carlton Felton

“Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters”, *The United Methodist Hymnal* #605

<https://unionboston.org/>, Union Church in Boston, MA.

“The Baptismal Covenant I”, *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

“The Baptismal Covenant II”, *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

“The Baptismal Covenant IV” (Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant), *The United Methodist Book of Worship*