

# CHINESE BIBLE CHURCH OF MARYLAND

## GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Your baptism is very special and the service is one that will mark an important milestone in your faith journey. Please follow the guidelines and instructions as you come to the baptismal service:

1. Write out your three minute testimony. You may have already submitted it to the church, but make sure you condense it to the time given. When you think it through and write it out, you actually can say a lot in three minutes.
2. Follow the testimony guidelines.
3. Review and rehearse it so you know it well enough that you can have eye contact with the congregation when you share it. (It's okay to read it if you are too nervous.)
4. Bring your written testimony to the service as you will share it orally with the congregation.
5. Stay WITHIN three minutes.
6. Bring a change of clothes to wear under the baptismal robe. **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:** a dark color top and **LONG** pants (NO white top or white T-Shirt for females as you will get wet and it will show through. No shorts or skirts because you will have to go up on the steps and get in and out of the baptistery.)
7. Bring a hair dryer if you need to dry your hair.
8. Bring a pair of flip-flops if you don't want to get into your shoes with wet feet right after you get out of the baptistery.
9. Remember to take off your glasses before entering the baptistery.
10. The church will provide towels.
11. Walk carefully on the tiled floor and stairways when it is wet.
12. Try to change and get dressed quickly after your baptism as you will need to return to the service and share your testimony.

This is a general schedule:

1. Change into your baptismal robe right before the service.
2. Get seated in the front – usually on the side of the baptistery.
3. The congregation will sing a few hymns.
4. The pastor will introduce all baptismal candidates after prayer.
5. The pastor will ask the group a few general questions about their faith.
6. When you are called, carefully step up to the baptistery. A deacon is usually there to help you in and out of the baptistery.
7. After baptism, go to the restroom to change.
8. Leave the wet robe and towel in the designated container.
9. Return to the service as soon as you can.
10. Share your testimony.
11. Form a receiving line for people to congratulate you and take pictures with you after the service.

***We are so glad you are a part of the family of God and now of CBCM.***