

6. Will persons who are baptised and are members of other Christian denominations be admitted to Holy Eucharist?

All persons who are baptised in water and in the name of the Holy Trinity are permitted to receive Holy Communion at the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist within our dioceses and jurisdictions. None is required so to receive, but no barrier should be erected to prevent all the baptised from making their Communion.

7. What will happen to the rite of Confirmation?

Confirmation can become a mature affirmation of faith and recommitment to the vows made in Baptism. This recommitment would affirm the relationship between the individual who is renewing baptismal promises and the Lord into whom he/she was baptised.



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BAPTISM

THE GATEWAY TO HOLY COMMUNION

Q&A



1. What change is being proposed by the Provincial Synod?

The Resolution passed at the Provincial Synod outlined what is being proposed to congregations:

WHEREAS the House of Bishops of the Church in the Province of the West Indies, after a process of reflection on the history and theology inherent in the rites of Christian Initiation and the practices related to admission to Holy Communion, have unanimously agreed to return to the early practice of Christian Initiation inclusive of making Baptism the gateway to Holy Communion;

AND WHEREAS the House of Bishops have given the assurance that this return to the early practice will only be enforced after an extensive process of teaching and communication at parish level focusing on formation in faith? formation in worship and formation in spiritual disciplines;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that this Fortieth Session of Provincial synod of the Church in the Province of the West Indies with the decision of the House of Bishops to make Baptism the gateway to communion provided that change in present practice will only occur after a transition resolution by the House of Bishops and subsequently passed by the Provincial Synod.

2. What does this mean for churches?

I. It means that all baptised persons will be admitted to Holy Communion

II. it means that persons will not have to also be confirmed to be admitted to Holy Communion

3. Why are we making this change?

There is a recognition that the early church required only Baptism as the gateway to

Holy Communion and that we should return to this position.

Baptism is a complete Christian initiation sacrament. In Baptism, we are made full members. We should enjoy the full benefits of the family of the Church, including participating in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

4. Will baptised children be admitted to Holy Communion?

Yes, all baptised children will be freely welcomed to Holy Communion as their parents and guardians permit

5. Who will decide when baptised children are ready to receive Holy Communion?

Parents and guardians in consultation with their priest will be the ones to help to make the decision when baptised children will be admitted to Holy Communion