

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## Confirmation 2017-2018

### Orientation and Expectations

#### **What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation is a structured opportunity to explore, examine and claim what each of us believes about what it means to be a Christian. For those who have been baptized, it is a time to claim those promises made on your behalf for oneself. For those who have not been baptized, it allows for serious consideration prior to making the decision to be baptized. This is a time of exploration and inquiry: there is no assumption that by participating in this process you are required to join the church.

#### **Why is Confirmation important?**

Confirmation is a focused opportunity for each person to wrestle with what our faith has to say about the important and serious issues of life in a safe and supportive setting. Moreover, it prepares us for making personal commitments concerning these issues so that the very meaning and purpose of life are deepened. Confirmation is not intended to replace Sunday worship, or the Youth Musical, but build on and compliment involvement in the full range of the life of the church.

#### **What is involved in Confirmation?**

There are many areas we will explore during the coming year:

- Working together as a group
- Deepening our knowledge of the Bible
- Recognizing how mission and service are our response to the gospel story
- Understanding the history of the Christian Church and of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Understanding how Southminster Presbyterian Church works
- Deepen spiritual disciplines
- Describe in words what you personally believe

#### **How will we do this?**

- Mandatory participation in Confirmation meetings, retreats, service projects
  - attending Sunday morning worship
  - Participating in Sunday morning worship service
- Observe our church at work by attending one Session meeting, and one Church Committee meeting of your choice
- Meet with a self-selected covenant partner (mentor) from the congregation
- Participate in a service project
- Analyze and report on a sermon

#### **When and how much will we meet ?**

We meet 17 times this school season, beginning September 27<sup>th</sup>. Once our meeting schedule is set, we ask that this be given one of the top-most priorities. Notification of absences and arrangements to make up the work are expected. We will also plan for sessions during the musical and Spring sessions.

**What is the role of the Confirmand ?**

Honor the Covenant we make together. Select a Covenant Partner. Be involved. Ask questions. Explore. Listen to others. Enjoy fellowship. Because an important component of our Christian understanding is community, it is critical that you attend and actively participate each time we meet. It is important that assignments are completed in a timely fashion.

**What is the role of the Parents ?**

Honor the Covenant we make together. Parental support is essential to the Confirmation process. Perhaps the most important support is the willingness to enter into this process yourself. Ask about what they are doing, what they are learning, questions that they have. Be prepared to share your own faith and questions. There will also be logistical support, including transportation and maybe meals. Be clear about your priority of this commitment.

**What is the role of the Covenant Partner (Mentor)?**

Honor the Covenant we make together. Mentors are a caring, committed adult presence. They will meet regularly with a Confirmand, and assist them in deepening their understanding about what it means to be a person of faith and live a life of faith. Be prepared to share honestly, even when it means admitting you don't know something. You will assist in the service of Confirmation.

Attached you will find a draft of our Confirmation Covenant, which we will approve at our first meeting. Also you will find a copy of Guidelines for Covenant Partners, which may help in deciding with whom you will want to work .

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With the help of God, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we covenant together:

As the Confirmation Class, we promise to:

- Show up for class
  - Do our homework
  - Participate in leading worship
  - Observe the church at work by attending one Session, one Committee, and one Presbytery Meeting
  - Meet twice each month with a mentor
  - Select and participate in two service projects
  - Ask questions
  - Keep confidential what we say here
  - Speak for ourselves and be respectful of those who have different ways of understanding
  - Assist in planning and leading a worship service
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As Parents, we pledge our love, support, and willingness to answer questions about our faith. We will help with transportation, help with food, and attend church with Confirmands

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As a Covenant Partner, I promise to meet regularly with my Confirmand, supporting them in prayer, keeping confidential what is shared, and assisting them to grow in faith.

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As Pastor and Teacher, I promise my guidance, prayers, preparation, help with leading worship, and personal commitment to each participant and to the group.

- Organize hands-on activities, as well as book assignments
  - Schedule off-site meetings and activities
  - Keep confidential what we say here
  - Help Confirmation class plan a worship service
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As the congregation of Southminster Presbyterian Church we will:

- Pray for each member of the Confirmation Class
- Help with meals/snacks
- Invite and welcome Confirmation Class members to Session and Committee meetings
- Act as Covenant Partners with a Confirmand if asked
- Participate in non-traditional worship service