

## Some Confirmation Expectations

Confirmation, at its root, is about welcoming people into the body of Christ in new and exciting ways. At First Presbyterian, Concord (and elsewhere) this root purpose is carried out in a way that equips young people to begin making statements of faith, claiming in word and action the promises that their parents and other caregivers have made for them previously.

While Confirmation is a responsibility of the Church— and an integral part of its Christian Education and Mission—no one person can be expected to successfully carry out a program that seeks to equip young people to articulate their identity as a Child of God and to prepare to live as Christ's disciple.

Therefore, there are certain expectations and guidelines for participation that are a part of the Confirmation process at First Presbyterian. Some are for the adult guides and pastors only, some for parents and youth only, some for all these parties together.

These various expectations are neither meant to be exhaustive nor legalistic. Rather, they are an attempt to begin laying a groundwork of accountability and trust that can help ensure a positive and full experience for everyone involved in the Confirmation process.

### *For Youth, Their Families, Pastors and Adult Guides:*

- Remember that God is a part of this process—you can expect to experience something of God's love and grace each time the group gathers.
- Pray during this time—for yourself, the young people/friends in this process with you, the teachers, parents, and the church involved. Ask for God to help you be patient with the boring stuff, honest about the confusing stuff, and thankful about everything in between.
- To be present, or make sure your youth is present, for, ***at least, 8 of the Confirmation sessions.*** If you know you will be absent or if unexpected conflicts emerge, please contact the Associate Pastor for Youth immediately, so that any make-up work can be scheduled.
- Be honest and open about asking questions, remembering that “I don't know” is not necessarily a bad answer.
- Treat others involved in the process with respect and hospitality, remembering that God calls all kinds of different people and gives all kinds of different gifts in God's family.

### *For Pastors/Adult Guides:*

- To prepare lessons plans and help facilitate small group interaction with the Youth participants
- To maintain contact during non-class times with youth and parents, to check-in and see how the young people and their parents are dealing with the issues raised in class
- Build healthy relationships with the youth, reminding them in word and deed that they are Children of God

- Challenge young people to think through issues of faith, remembering to be patient as young people tackle some tough issues for the first time
- Listen and take the concerns of young people seriously
- Allow young people to come to develop their own responses rather than dominate conversation or indicating that your answer is the “right one.”
- Communicate with parents both concerns and affirmations about young people’s participation
- To have on file with the Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry a signed copy of the “Adult Commitment and Covenant Form,” which is required for all adults working with youth.

*For Families (Parents, Grandparents, siblings):*

- Ask about each confirmation class. Rather than ask a question that might get a one word response (The Teenage “Fine”), try asking them to tell you one thing they liked or remembered about the previous class.
- Check-in with them about any take-home assignments. Offer guidance should they need it.
- Communicate with the Adult Guides or Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries when a question, scheduling conflict, or concern arises.
- Work with the Adult Guides and pastors involved to help schedule any make-up work that needs to be done.
- Share your joys about the process with your young person, the Adults Guides, other parents, the pastors, and other church members
- *Pledge your support by making sure you are present in worship and by encouraging your young person to attend Sunday School and Youth Fellowship Activities. As young people are taking part in Confirmation, they are learning what living out faith as a church member is about. There is a contradiction of sorts going on if they are learning this on Sunday afternoon and yet not actively involved in other venues for discipleship that the church helps provide.*

*For Young People :*

- Listen. Ask Questions. *Step outside your comfort zone.*
- Know you have the right to “pass” if you are unsure about a discussion topic, but remember that sharing your insight is crucial to the process.
- Participate in games and small group discussions—even if it’s only by listening and asking good questions.
- Tell your parents what you learned in Confirmation. Ask them or other trusted adults what they think about the issues of faith you are learning about.
- Encourage your parents to help bring you to worship and other church activities so that you can live out what you are learning in Confirmation in other ways.
- Be in attendance for the Session Examination on May 12 at 7pm and the Confirmation Worship Service scheduled for May 31 at 11am.