



Are You Ready to be Confirmed?

Mentor Meeting Discussion Guide Confirmation 2018-2019 MEETING VII (April)

Warm Up Questions for Confirmand to ask Mentor:

- When you made a profession of faith in your Confirmation Service, was there a laying on of hands with prayer? Anointing?
- After making your first profession of faith, did you ever feel led to revisit your decision?
- What are you most looking forward to about Confirmation Sunday?

Warm Up Questions for Mentor to ask Confirmand:

- As you look back over the Confirmation year, what have you most enjoyed? What has been most challenging for you?
- As you prepare for Confirmation Sunday, what are you nervous about? How can I support you?
- What are you most looking forward to about Confirmation Sunday?

Confirmation Class Connections:

Read Romans 6:3-11 aloud and respond to the following prompts.

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- What words or phrases stuck out to you in the passage?
- How does Paul talk about Baptism in verses three and four?
- What do you think it means to be “united to Christ in a death like his?”
- What do you think it means to be “alive to God in Christ Jesus?”

The Meaning Behind Confirmation Sunday: On Confirmation Sunday, some youth will be baptized. Those who were baptized as babies will reaffirm the covenant promise made by their parents. In the

words of Paul, our baptism mirrors Jesus' death and resurrection. It marks a moment when we turn from sin and death toward faith and life.

Confirmation is an act of covenant renewal that includes three parties:

1. *God* confirms a youth's baptismal identity as a child of God, whether Baptism occurred in childhood or will happen in the Confirmation Worship Service.
2. *The Confirmand* affirms her/his/their faith in Jesus Christ and the teachings of the church.
3. *The Congregation (AKA: BMPC)* confirms the youth's spiritual gifts for ministry and active membership in the church.

What does it mean to make a "public profession of faith?" A public profession of faith is a declaration of intent, using the Apostle's Creed and the "Big Questions" of Confirmation, to take part actively and responsibly in the church's worship and mission. A profession of faith is a reminder that Confirmation is not the end of the youth's faith journey; it is the beginning of a new phase of growth and transformation! On Confirmation Sunday, Confirmands will be asked to respond to the following questions in front of the Congregation.

Take a few moments to review the four Confirmation questions together. Do you feel like you are ready to answer these questions in the affirmative on Confirmation Sunday?

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? Do you? **Answer: I do.**
- Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? Do you? **Answer: I do.**
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? Will you with God's help? **Answer: I will, with God's help.**
- Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers? Will you with God's help? **Answer: I will with God's help.**

Crossing the Finish Line:

To cross the Confirmation finish line, it is important that Confirmand and Mentor review the following information together so that everyone is on the same page moving forward.

Disciple Project: By now, your Disciple Project should be well under way. If you still have questions about the project, access the "*February Mentor Meeting Guide*" on the BMPC Confirmation page at <https://www.bmpc.org/ministries/youth-and-families/confirmation-youth-ministry>. Before concluding your final meeting, review the Disciple Project Expectations and Requirements provided there and report any lingering questions to Pastor David or Courtenay Willcox.

Key Dates to Remember:

- **Disciple Projects MUST BE COMPLETED by Sunday, May 5th, 2019.** All Confirmands will present their Disciple Projects for peer review in Confirmation Class on the 5th to ensure that they are ready for the examination/expo on the 12th!
- **Session Examination & Confirmation Expo on May 12th, 2019.** All Confirmands are expected to arrive at the Gym by 8:30 a.m. to set up their projects for the "Session Examination," which will begin at 9 a.m. The word "examination" can be intimidating, but there is no cause for

concern; everyone wants our Confirmands to feel affirmed and supported. At 11 a.m. (after Youth Gathering & 10 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary) Confirmands and Mentors are invited to stand with and answer questions about their projects as members of the congregation drop by to check out their work.

- **Confirmation Sunday on May 19th, 2018.** All Confirmands, families, and Mentors are invited to gather in Congregational Hall at 8:30 a.m. for a celebratory breakfast! Confirmation certificates and gifts will be handed out. Youth will gather in the Sanctuary for a group picture at 9:45 a.m. The Liturgy of Confirmation will take place during the 10 a.m. service.

After Confirmation:

Confirmation Sunday marks the completion of a process, not the end of the Mentor/Confirmand relationship. Mentors can play a significant role in the life of the young people for whom they care long after the Confirmation year has ended. In conversation with parents and families, mentors and mentees are encouraged to keep the relationship going; supporting one another as an extension of the Christian siblinghood they affirmed at the beginning of the year. We invite you to keep in touch with one another, worship together when you can, and send cards on major holidays. Most importantly, hold one another in prayer, always!

Close in Prayer:

Upon concluding your discussion, we recommend that you close in prayer. As this is your last official meeting, take some time to thank God for God's presence in this process throughout the entire year. Give thanks for one another, and pray that God will continue to be present as you step into whatever is next. Both Confirmand and Mentor should pray.