



***Devotion***  
**Mentor Meeting Discussion Guide**  
**Confirmation 2018-2019**  
**MEETING VI (March)**

**Questions for Confirmand to ask Mentor:**

- How do you celebrate the Season of Lent?
- Can you think of a time in your life when the Lenten journey of repentance and self-reflection lead you to a deeper understanding of your faith? What was that experience like?
- Do you believe it is possible to affirm your belief in the church's teaching while also questioning traditional Christian assumptions? Why or why not?

**Questions for Mentor to ask Confirmand:**

- Have you ever thought about *giving up* or *taking on* something for Lent? If so, what? If not, is there a new Christian practice you would like to try this season?
- What do you most look forward to about Easter?
- Based on your conversations in Confirmation class, what do you think it means to "devote yourself" to the church's teaching, fellowship, practices, and prayers?

**Confirmation Class Connections:**

*Review the following keywords and definitions. Then, respond to the prompts/questions together. These prompts/questions can be answered by either or both mentor or Confirmand.*

**Key Ideas:**

**Devotion to the Church's Teaching:** As believers, we devote ourselves to the study of the Scriptures and the teachings of the church (AKA: doctrine) as part of the church's ongoing commitment to "faith seeking understanding." In so doing, we come to understand more fully the nature of the faith we profess in baptism and at Confirmation.

- Have you ever found it hard to believe something that a preacher has said or a Creed has stated? What did you do in those moments?
- Do you feel like the church is a safe space to be honest about your doubts? Why or why not?

The **Apostle's Creed** is an historic summary of the church's teaching; that's why we memorize it during the confirmation process! The Latin word *credo* has the connotation of "I give my heart" and is often translated as "I believe." Creeds help us describe what we say we believe as people of faith. The Creed provides us with a vision for Christian living and action in the church and the world. When we recite

and reflect on the meaning of its words, our faith is strengthened, and our understanding is deepened. When we say it aloud together, we participate in the same faith that Christians have affirmed for thousands of years!

*Take a moment to read through the Apostle's Creed together:*

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, Our Lord.  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day, he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the Body and the Life everlasting. Amen.*

- When you read through the Creed what words or phrases seemed strange to you? How do you reconcile those seemingly strange teachings with your own beliefs?

**Devotion to the Church's Fellowship:** The Greek word *koinonia* means "fellowship." It expresses the idea of sharing in a common bond. The word refers to communion in the sense of "something used or held in common." Action is always included in its meaning. Christian fellowship is more than hanging out with your church friends; it's about doing good together. God expects us to work together as we use our gifts to heal the world's brokenness.

- *Throughout the Confirmation year, Confirmands have reflected on God's command to "love God and love neighbor."* How might regular Christian fellowship lead to a deeper sense of the importance of giving and receiving God's love?

**Devotion to the Breaking of Bread:** Pastor and theologian Ron Byars has said, "To be Christian is to be part of a community, and not just any community, but the one that gathers around these things: teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper (AKA: Communion or Eucharist), and prayer." Jesus shared many meals with his followers. He broke bread, fed the hungry, welcomed the outcast, and assured the disciples of his ongoing presences with them in through the Holy Spirit. Table fellowship has been central to the life of the church from the very beginning. The Bible acknowledges two sacraments; one of them is baptism, the other is the Breaking of Bread that takes place in communion.

- Recall a time when you took communion. Where were you? What was it like? What did the pastor(s) do or say?

**Devotion to the Prayers:** Prayer focuses our attention on God and away from ourselves. When that happens, we open our hearts to God to become active in our lives. Prayer is a common language that all Christians share. We are called to pray “in the Spirit.” When we find it hard to know what to say in our prayers, the spirit gives us the courage we need to make our voices heard before God. The church’s unity and its purpose is built on prayer. Without prayer, the church would be nothing more than a social club for well-meaning people.

- Have you ever found yourself in a moment where you want to pray, but you can’t find the words? What was that moment like? How did you respond?
- Think back to a BMPC worship service you have attended. Can you remember any of the words to the prayers we pray together (Hint: Our Father, who art in heaven...)?

***Close in Prayer:***

*Upon concluding your discussion, we recommend that you close in prayer. Closing in prayer marks the conversation you have shared as holy. Prayers do not have to be perfectly articulated. They need not use grandiose theological language. Prayers can be simple; giving thanks to God for the opportunity to share with one another and grow together spiritually throughout the Confirmation year. Either Confirmand or Mentor may pray.*