

## Confirmation Info Session

### Confirmation program vs. the sacrament of confirmation

The first and most important thing I want youth and their families to know is that participating in the confirmation program *does not mean* that you are signing up to be confirmed. In fact, the goal of a confirmation program is to *discern and decide* whether you want to participate in the sacrament of confirmation. At the end of our time together, some youth may decide to go get confirmed at the Cathedral, while others may not.

### What are the components of Trinity's confirmation program?

**Classes:** One component of the confirmation program will be regular meetings, structured like an informal, discussion-based class. We will use a combination of the Confirm not Conform curriculum, as well as a racial and social justice curriculum. Here is a brief outline of what our class sessions may look like:

1. **WHERE DO YOU STAND: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO WHOM** Explores where youth are starting from and what you currently believe.
2. **SCRIPTURE: A MAD DASH THROUGH A GOOD BOOK** An overview of the Bible and how it is put together.
3. **WHAT THE CHURCH BELIEVES: THE NICENE CREED** Youth are invited to define the meanings of some basic concepts of faith. The group develops its own creed.
4. **WHERE DO YOU STAND: THE POWER TO CHOOSE A FAITH** A brief overview of major world religions. Youth revisit the statements of faith from the first session.
5. **WHERE DO YOU STAND: THE POWER TO CHOOSE A CHURCH** A brief overview of major Christian denominations, including an exploration of worship styles and beliefs
6. **FAITH IN ACTION: THE HURTING WORLD** Explores what injustice is by focusing on racism in the United States. Makes space to define concepts such as good and evil.
7. **FAITH IN ACTION: CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY** Examines how identity markers like race and gender impact our experiences, and the role faith can play in identity and oppression.
8. **FAITH IN ACTION: JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY** An overview of the role Christianity has played in causing and uprooting racism. Explores the role of community in anti-racism.

**Confirmation retreat:** We will hold a confirmation retreat in the spring that will \*hopefully\* be an overnight. This will allow us to explore various spiritual practices like prayer and sacraments. On the retreat, youth will also begin to discern whether or not they want to be confirmed.

**Meeting with a mentor:** Youth will be invited to find a confirmation mentor to meet with several times before making your decision. This should be someone outside the family who you are interested in talking to about your faith journey.

**Closing Ceremony:** All those who participate in the confirmation program will be invited to plan a closing ceremony, regardless of whether or not they chose to be confirmed.

### Who should sign up for the confirmation program?

Any youth in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or older is welcome to sign up for the confirmation program. You do not need to believe in God, be baptized, or even be a part of Trinity in order to take the class. The confirmation program is for any youth who want to explore your faith more, even if you have no idea what you believe!

### What is the sacrament of Confirmation?

The Episcopal church defines Confirmation as "the sacramental rite in which the candidates express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." Often, people choose to be confirmed when they are if they were baptized as babies, since *confirmation is a chance to publicly make your faith your own*. For those who were baptized when they were not a baby or might get baptized during the program confirmation marks their first public declaration of faith.