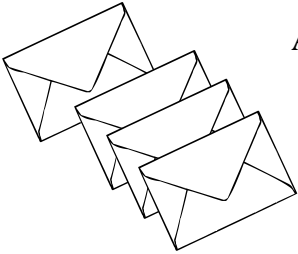


## Affirmation Letters – Parent Info



Affirmation Letters are being gathered for all the 2009 Confirmands at First Presbyterian Church. The letters should be from Christian Adults in the Confirmands life (i.e. parents, grandparents, grown siblings, Sunday School teachers, youth advisors, etc.). **They should be gathered by the Elder Sponsors and forwarded to Emily Parrish by April 15.** The letters will be given to the confirmand at the end of the Confirmation Retreat (May 3). The letters are intended to be a SURPRISE for the confirmand.

The letters should express the love, encouragement, and excitement the Christian Adult has for the confirmand as they make this important step in their life. Letters can be in any format – cards, letters, handwritten, typewritten, a greeting card with additional handwritten comments, or any other creative ideas.

If the letter writers want ideas, a sample letter is below. There is no specific format that needs to be followed – this sample is just intended to give the letter writer some ideas. Their letter should be personal and loving – from them to this important child in their life.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am so pleased you are taking steps to be confirmed at your church. Confirmation, a personal expression of faith, and church membership are important steps in a Christian life. I can remember when you were baptized ..... and our hopes for you growing into a Christian ... I have been praying for you .... Especially as you have been going through confirmation ...

We have enjoyed watching you ..... express Christian values through your volunteer work, through your spirit of giving, .....

We are looking forward to watching/hearing of your continued Christian growth....

This is such an important milestone in your life .... Extremely proud of you ..... I am so glad/proud to a part of your life. I am so excited about what you are doing with your life .... I am here to support you ...

Much Love,

### **What should I say when I contact these folks for Affirmation Letters?**

- Tell them that the child is going through the confirmation experience at our church. They were given your name by the child's parents as a Christian Adult in the child's life.
- Ask them if they have any questions about what Confirmation is (see explanation below if needed).
- Tell them about the affirmation letters and ask if they would be willing to write one for this child. Ask them to send the affirmation letter to you and that it will be given to the child after their confirmation retreat.
- Encourage them to pray for the child while they are going through confirmation classes and especially the retreat (may 1-3). Encourage them to contact the child in the next month, express their wishes for the child, and tell the child that they are praying for them as they go through confirmation.
- Invite them to attend the confirmation service on may 6. The service will be at 11:00.

### **What is Confirmation?**

Here are some ways to explain confirmation to those who may not be familiar with it:

Confirmation = Expression of Faith = Church Membership

Confirmation allows young people to confirm the faith their parents expressed on their behalf at their baptism. If the child has not been previously baptized, they will be baptized as part of confirmation.

*One becomes an active member of the church through faith in  
Jesus Christ as Savior and acceptance of his Lordship in all of life.*

**Presbyterian Book of Order (G-5.0100a)**

The youth will go through Confirmation Classes and a Retreat that will help them focus on the essential move of turning to Christ. These classes and retreat are structured to prepare the children to consider and respond to the questions that are asked of those who desire to profess their faith at our church:

- Do you turn from the world to the light of Jesus Christ?
- Who is your Lord & Savior?
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple?
- Will you be a faithful member of this congregation?

Upon confirmation, the child will become a FULL member of the church. Confirmation is not a "rubber stamp" or automatic event for a child at a specific age. It is intended to be one method for expression of faith and membership into the church.