

From Darkness to Light

Confirmation 2009

Parent Information Session

January 14, 2009

What is 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. Book of Order (G-5.0100a)

- Confirmation is an important step in the Christian Journey.
- Confirmation allows young people to explore and confirm their faith.
- It is a loving and gracious welcome for young people as they become members of Christ's church.
- The Confirmation Classes and Retreat will focus on the essential move of turning to Christ and the relationship of believers to Jesus Christ.
- Participation in confirmation events will be considered a strong indication of the will of the young person to express their faith.

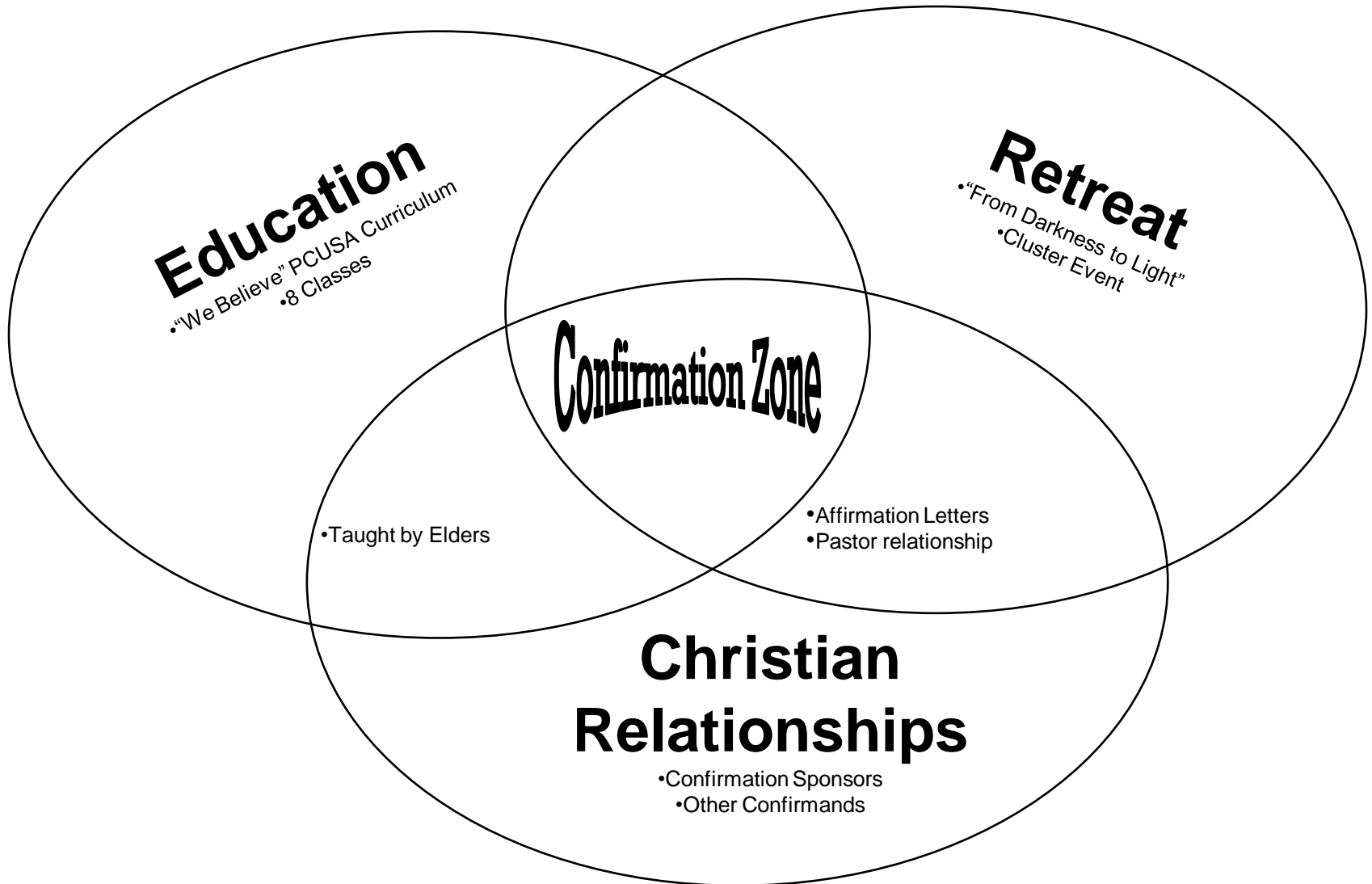
Essential Questions

- Confirmation is structured to prepare the youth 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?

Baptism and Confirmation

- Who should participate in confirmation?
- What is the difference between baptism and confirmation?
- What if my child isn't baptized?
- What if I don't feel my child is ready?
- How does confirmation compare to being "saved" in other faith traditions?
- How can I be sure this is my child's decision regarding faith vs. a rubber stamp or peer pressure?
- Who decides if my child can become a member of this church? How do they decide? What is a "session" anyway?

FPC's Confirmation Experience



Confirmation Education

You Are What You Wear – your baptism marks your entrance into this family of God, as you are clothed in Christ, and it's the beginning of your lifelong journey.

How Do You Spell Presbyterian? – the church is called to God's purpose in the world and organizes itself to fulfill those purposes.

Where is God When It Hurts? – God governs, supports, and redeems creation, so that nothing in our lives is ever wasted.

Extravagant Love – there is no Savior like Jesus and no salvation like the one Jesus offers.

We've Got the Spirit! – the Holy Spirit makes Jesus as present to us as his physical presence was to the disciples.

Can You Hear Me Now? – prayer involves both addressing God and listening for God's word within our hearts. The Lord's Prayer serves as a model for praying.

Going Out – when we pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we are asking God to use us as instruments to fulfill God's purpose.

Grace and Gratitude – we obey God's law out of gratitude, confident that God gives us the grace to grow in love and knowledge daily.

Christian Relationships

- Confirmation Sponsors
 - An ordained elder or deacon
 - 1 per youth
 - Duties include:
 - To establish a personal relationship with the youth in order to be a spiritual and knowledge resource for youth during the confirmation process
 - To pray for the youth during this experience
 - To work with the parents to gather at least 5 Affirmation Letters for the youth
 - Introduce and recommend the youth to the session for membership consideration

Christian Relationships (cont.)

- **Affirmation Letters**

- Letters from Christian adults in the youth's life (i.e. parents, grandparents, grown siblings, Sunday School teachers, youth advisors).
- These letters will be given to the youth at the end of the confirmation retreat.
- They should express the love, encouragement, and excitement the Christian Adult has for the youth as they make this important step in their life.

- **Pastor Relationship**

- Opportunities will be provided for the youth to get to know their pastor and ask questions of the pastor

- **Christian Peer Relationships**

- The youth will be going through this experience with other youth from our church and cluster. It will be an opportunity to establish and deepen Christian Peer Relationships.

Confirmation Retreat

- Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3
- At Camp Calvin
- Cluster-wide retreat, including youth from Loyd and Newnan
- Includes:
 - Pastor-led sessions exploring the essential questions for membership
 - Worship
 - Experiential outdoor activities led by Calvin Center staff designed specifically for this retreat
 - Fun stuff too

Review by Session

- Wednesday, May 6 @ 5:30 - 6:45pm
 - In Sanctuary
 - Parents welcome to attend
- Agenda
 - In groups, the youth will express aspects of their faith to the session. They will have decided how to express their faith during the Confirmation Retreat.
 - Each youth will be introduced to the session by their Confirmation Sponsor and recommended for membership
 - The session has an opportunity to ask questions of each youth regarding their faith and desire for membership.
 - The session will vote to approve candidates for membership.

Presentation to Congregation

- Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day)
 - During 11:00 am worship
 - Parents encouraged to invite family and other significant Christians in the youth's life
- Presentation to Congregation
 - Worship service will be focused on confirmation and welcoming these young people into Christ's church and FPC
 - Confirmation Sponsors will stand with youth as they are presented to the congregation

Confirmation 2009

Summary of Events

- **Parent Information Session**
 - Wednesday, January 14 @ 7:00 – 7:30 in the Session Room
- **Confirmation Kick-off with Sponsors**
 - Wednesday, February 4 @ 5:30 – 7:00 in Small Dining Room
 - Confirmand and Sponsor will have dinner together during regular Wednesday night dinner time
 - Everyone responsible for purchasing and obtaining their own dinner
 - Additional “get to know you” activities after dinner
- **Confirmation Educational Classes**
 - Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 7:00, locations TBA
 - Dates: 2/11, 2/18, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/22
 - Classes will be taught by ordained church elders and deacons
 - Confirmands and Sponsors are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday service together on 2/25
 - No classes during Spring Break (no classes 4/8 or 4/15)
- **Confirmation Retreat**
 - Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3 @ Camp Calvin
- **Review by Session for Membership**
 - Wednesday, May 6, @ 5:30 – 6:45 in Sanctuary
 - Parents are encouraged to be present
- **Presentation to Congregation**
 - Sunday, May 6 @ 11:00 Worship

Confirmation 2009

Summary of Requested Parent Involvement

- Determine if your child is ready for confirmation
 - Some children may not be ready for confirmation
 - Ensure Confirmation RSVP is returned to Emily Parrish (or let her know your child is going to wait until next confirmation)
- Know event & education dates
 - Help minimize conflicts
 - Because so many people and other churches are involved, confirmation event dates cannot be changed
 - If your child has conflicts that cannot be avoided – ask Emily or sponsor how to best to cover missed material (i.e. get copy of teacher material and discuss at home)
- Help Confirmation Sponsor
 - Assist your child (if needed) in returning Confirmation Sponsor phone calls and scheduling times to talk together
 - Review list of Christian adults with sponsor
 - Suggest topics of conversation for sponsor (i.e. child's favorite activities, spiritual background, etc.)
 - Encourage your child to ask Sponsor any questions they may have about spiritual matters
- Affirmation Letters
 - Be sure both parents write affirmation letter for child
 - If appropriate, have siblings write a letter as well
 - Assist sponsor in obtaining affirmation letters – this is usually easier for parents to do than for the sponsor
- Discussions with confirmand
 - Parents are the #1 factor in a child's spiritual formation. You have a lot of influence!
 - Take this time to talk with your child about spiritual matters. Tell them about your spiritual journey, family history, etc.
 - Take this time to ask your child if they would like to try different family times of spirituality. Such as a family Bible Study time or family prayer in addition to individual prayer or a family prayer list.

Questions???