

~ Confirmation Covenant ~

Confirmation is a time to lead our students toward a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives, an understanding of the Christian faith, and an appreciation of the privileges and obligations of baptism and full church membership. During this season, students will explore the history of the Church, learn what United Methodists believe, study Scripture, practice prayer, and begin and/or enrich their spiritual journeys. As well, they will participate in a group service, be mentored by a Faith Partner, and deepen relationship with their peers!

Because a relationship with Christ and the Church is a commitment, Confirmation needs to be a commitment. As with anything else, a commitment to Confirmation demands regular time and attention. While this may initially seem daunting to student/family, this commitment is highly beneficial in the long run! Confirmation is the perfect and safe place where students can learn the “nuts and bolts” of Christianity, talk about religion and the Church, and freely ask questions.

I (we) commit to

- **Attending Weekly Classes** - Because of the significance of Confirmation and the program’s important elements for faith growth, participants are not allowed more than two absences from Confirmation lessons. Any student who misses more than two lessons will be asked to withdraw from Confirmation until classes are offered again the following year.
- **Being Prepared** - Students are expected to complete weekly reading assignments from their Confirmation Growth Guide.
- **Serving Others** - Students are expected to participate in at least one service project.

I/we understand the Confirmation covenant/attendance policy as well as reasons for its implementation and promise to adhere to it.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

There are many reasons why we have established this expectation, all of which point to what is best for the student. We desire students to *thrive*, not only in Confirmation but also, and more importantly, in their relationships with Christ and the Church. In order to thrive, we believe one must first be committed to grow. (How can a tree grow if it is never planted?!)

Why does attendance determine commitment?

Students who do not attend Confirmation regularly are not able to understand or commit to the obligations of church membership. Upon Confirmation, students will become full members of First United Methodist Church McKinney. One of the membership vows they will take obligates them to upholding their commitment to the church by their “prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.” Regular attendance at Confirmation simply prepares students for this vow they will take on Confirmation Sunday and acts as a model for their future church involvement.

What difference will it make if my child misses 2 classes or 4?

Students who miss more than the allowed two lessons are not able to “bond” with their classmates and teachers as well as they could if they attended classes regularly. Relationships established within the church are key to spiritual growth and maturity; much of our faith blossoms within community. More practically speaking, relationships established during Confirmation help students feel more “at home” and welcome within the student ministry *after* Confirmation. Students who are sporadic in attendance have a much harder time “plugging into” the group and feeling as if they belong.

Why an attendance policy?

Our attendance policy establishes a universal standard for all participants. We recognize that *all* students and their families are busy. Allowing two absences, we believe, shows that we understand and are sympathetic to this. We expect all families to commit to our Confirmation attendance policy for the same reasons coaches, teachers, band leaders, etc. expect all of their students to abide by the same rules, obligations, and expectations: commitments/priorities require regular attendance/attention.

*Note: Though in many ways we compare our ministry and Confirmation program to school sports, extra-curricular activities, etc., we actually believe

church involvement should be *a higher priority* than anything else because it connects and binds students to the church and a relationship with Jesus Christ, both of which are of utmost, life-changing significance.

Finally, Confirmation is not about “being saved.” Being confirmed is not just something our students need to “do.” Confirmation is a meaningful experience where students build quality relationships with their peers and teachers, learn about and experience the love of God, ask questions, and find out the core of the Christian faith. Every part, every lesson, in Confirmation is significant because it gives students a taste of the love, goodness, and truth of God and provides them with tools to help them live their faith every day. We simply want students to experience all they can from Confirmation, so we’ve established a way to guarantee they receive only the best from our student ministry!

Why weekly reading?

The Confirmation Growth Guide is written specifically for our students. Its content, approach to topics and examples are designed to best connect with a student’s cognitive level, faith development and day-to-day experiences. Taking time to be prepared each week will help students deepen their faith and maximize their confirmation experience.

Why serve others?

Serving others is clearly a part of what it means to be Christian. Although most people know this...knowing and doing are two different things. It is easy to become so consumed in our day-to-day lives that we hardly take time to help those in need and reach out to others with the love of Christ. Taking part in serving others is just one more way to grow as a follower of Christ. It also helps establish holy priorities in the life of students.

We’re just not sure we can commit to that...

Confirmation, for as big a commitment as it is, is only a 3-month program. Should your family; however, not be able to commit to regular attendance in Confirmation, rest assured that we offer the program annually! The program is designed primarily for junior high students (primarily 6th graders), but our doors are wide open to high school students as well. We welcome any student, any time, who would like to make the commitment to Confirmation!