

Confirmation Parent/Guardian Guide 2021-2022

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a program available to students entering grades 8-12. There are several components of Confirmation designed help a student ask big questions and explore a life of Christian faith. At the end of Confirmation, each student will have the opportunity to join the church as a member if they so choose. It is okay if they don't feel ready to join at the end of the program. Discerning values and beliefs and hopes and dreams is a life-long project that doesn't end just because one has walked through the Confirmation process. Our hope and prayer is that each student finds a life of faith that energizes their lives and engages our world.

Round Table Schedule:

9:00 a.m. in Room 216 (Youth Room)

October 3	No Meeting
October 10	What is Faith?
October 17	Who is Jesus?
October 24	No Meeting
October 30	How Do We Know God?
November 7	How Do We Read the Bible?
November 14	No Meeting – HS Retreat
November 21	What Are Spiritual Practices?
November 28	No Meeting - Thanksgiving
December 5	What Is the Church?
December 12	Who Are Presbyterians?
December 19	Why Membership? And What Are Sacraments?

Responsibilities:

Each student will be responsible for completing several components:

- _____ Round Table Discussions (*at least 6 sessions*)
- _____ Worship Experiences (*3 distinct worship experiences*)
- _____ Sermon Reflections (*6*)
- _____ Sunday Morning Coffee (*2*)
- _____ Group Service Project
- _____ Spiritual Practice Reflection
- _____ Statement of Faith
- _____ Meet with Session

Components:

Round Table Discussions – October 10, 2021 – December 19, 2021

There will be eight round table discussions at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings at First Pres. The students will be presented with various topics and reflections centering around faith, life, and the church. Students will be required to attend at least six of the eight sessions. *The final schedule will be released in the coming weeks.*

Worship Experiences – October 10, 2021 – March 27, 2022

Students are required to visit at least three church worship services at churches or communities of faith other than First Pres. The aim is to experience some of the various ways other groups of people express themselves in worship. Any community of faith will be accepted, but we encourage you to go somewhere you've never been and that might not even be "Christian." There will be several Sundays in the new year where Confirmation Teachers invite students to attend worship experiences with them. This is optional but might provide an opportunity to attend worship with a group. There will be short (200 words) reflections required of each visit. Please email these reflections to Eric (ehankins@firstpreswc.com).

Sermon Reflections – October 10, 2021 – March 27, 2022

Students will be required to reflect on at least six different sermons throughout the Confirmation program. This can include sermons at First Pres or sermons in another church or religious community. A standard form with a few questions will be filled out for each sermon. You can find those forms at firstprewc.com/confirmation.

Spiritual Practice – October 10, 2021 – March 27, 2022

Each student will be asked to pick a spiritual practice to intentionally take up for one month at any point during the program. There will be a variety of options available and a brief reflection on the student's practice will be required (400+ words). Each student will need to coordinate their plan with a Confirmation leader before beginning the spiritual practice component.

Sunday Morning Coffee – Dates TBD (2022)

After the Round Table Discussions are complete, we'll select two or three Sunday mornings between January and March to meet with the students and reflect on our Confirmation journeys. Students can ask their own questions and we'll also discuss how they have experienced some of the various Confirmation components.

Group Service Project – Date TBD (2022)

Statement of Faith – Due March 27, 2022

Each student will draft a brief statement of faith (600+ words) that attempts to articulate what they believe and how they have come to understand God. In addition, each student will select a Bible verse that resonates with their experience and informs their lives. Many students center their statement of faith around this verse, but it is not required.

Meeting with Session and Confirmation Sunday – Dates TBD (2022)

Students who desire to join First Pres as members will meet with the elders (Session) to be officially confirmed. The confirmands will then be welcomed into membership during our Sunday morning worship services.

More information will be available as we progress through the program year. If you have any scheduling concerns or questions about accessibility, please email our Youth Director, Eric Hankins (ehankins@firstpreswc.com).