



2012  
confirmation commissioning

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## Dear Parents and Eighth Graders:

This packet includes detailed information on the confirmation/commissioning process, a response card and information sheet/covenant. Please look them over together and return the enclosed sheets and card by August 28, 2011.

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the time set aside for youth to

1. explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and
2. learn how that commitment can be expressed through active membership in the Church.

During Confirmation, youth are given the opportunity to study the basics of the Christian life and faith, with emphasis on Bible study and prayer, discussion of issues/questions of faith, culminated in a written statement of faith. Basic aspects of our Presbyterian denomination and theology will also be explored.

Youth who complete the program still reserve the right to choose whether or not they feel ready to be confirmed. Those who decide they are ready will make a public profession of faith and declare their intention to be an active member of the church during a special worship service. Youth who have not yet been baptized will be baptized during this service. Confirmation is an opportunity for youth to examine their faith within a community of peers and adults, all of whom are on a journey of faith together.

### What is the Format of the Class?

The Confirmation Journey is an intensive eight-week program with a wrap-up retreat weekend at the Calvin Center on **April 14-15**. There will be a meeting for parents and their confirmand on **Sunday, September 11**, at **9:45 a.m.** Please make sure you are in attendance. Confirmation will conclude with the class being accepted into church membership on **May 20, 2012**. In between these events, we will hold four eight-week sessions. Please pick the one (and have a back up choice too) that works best with your

schedule. Your attendance is required each Sunday for those eight weeks. Class members are also expected to attend worship at Trinity on Sunday mornings. In addition to the material covered in class, an at-home journal reflection on what we have been talking about in class will be an important part. Participants will keep a journal of their weekly scripture reading and reflections. Towards the end of the Confirmation Journey, those who choose to be confirmed will write a statement expressing their faith in their own words. They will also make a Commitment to Ministry that will mark them as an active member of Christ's Church.

### What is Church School?

When you're not in the confirmation class, youth are encouraged and expected to attend the 8th-grade church school class. This class has been designed to complement the confirmation class and includes a new and exciting curriculum.

### What is an Elder Friend?

An important component to our program is the elder-friend. An elder-friend is someone from our governing body, the Session, who will serve as a sponsor to those in the Confirmation program. The elder-friends will meet with us a couple of times on Sunday mornings, and each confirmand will also meet with their elder-friend sometime outside of class (to be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time).

### What is My Commitment to the Confirmation Journey?

This program can only work with the commitment of each participant. There are many demands and pressures on our time with school, sports, and other extracurricular activities. We would ask, however, if you choose to participate in this program for the **eight session, to make it a priority** among the other demands on your time. This means we expect participants to attend the class sessions, worship, the retreat, and other class activities. The more you are engaged the more you will receive from the experience. Extra-ordinary circumstances will be handled on an individual basis.

## What is the Church's Commitment?

Trinity Presbyterian Church is committed to providing for the education and nurture of young people seeking to confirm and express their faith in Jesus Christ. That is why the Confirmation Class is offered to youth. We take our commitment seriously and hope you will too. If, for some reason, you decide you are not ready to take part in Confirmation this year, you will have an opportunity to participate in another Confirmation program in the future.

## A Word about Worship

Worship is a human response to the divine. It is giving "worth," "honor," or "praise" to what is greater than we are. These aspects of worship have special significance in Christian faith, where worship is offered to God alone. Presbyterians take worship very seriously because we recognize that worship is the most important thing we do. Here, the Holy Spirit calls people together to respond to the God revealed in the Old and New Testaments and supremely in Jesus Christ. We ascribe worth, praise, and honor to God, proclaiming God's greatness for who God is. We worship for what God has done, in the history of Israel and in sending Jesus Christ for our salvation. We proclaim our allegiance to God, the One of highest value in our lives.

Worship is marked by praise, proclamation, remembrance and prayer. It is our most essential human activity. It is not an option, but an absolute necessity. Worship is the service of God's glory. We commit our lives to furthering the ministry of Jesus Christ, to living for God's glory, and following as the Holy Spirit guides us in the community of faith.

That being said, attending weekly morning worship will be considered a part of the confirmation experience. You can attend either the 8:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service. Sit with your parents, or join John Ryan and Wendy Cochran in the sanctuary balcony at the 11:00 a.m. service.

## Why the Different Format from Previous Years?

One of the end goals for confirmation is to engage a person in the life and ministry of the church. Because of the size of this class, any group experience on Sunday morning is likely to be 25 persons. It's hard to create an intimate experience with this many people. By using this small group experience, it allows both John, Wendy, other adults and the confirmand to have a small group experience. More individual attention will be given.

## How Do I Register?

Simply complete the enclosed sheets and send it to the church before **August 28, 2011**. If you have any questions, please contact John Ryan at church (404-495-8456 or johnryan@trinityatlanta.org) or cell phone (404-788-1356).

Peace,



John Ryan  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

# Parent Information

## GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

- Plan to be involved in all parents' sessions and have your youth present in all youth sessions.
- Discuss what's happening in class with your youth. This is an opportunity for you to grow together in your faith.
- Pray for and with your youth on a regular basis. This is an important time in their lives and they need your prayer and support.
- Make a special effort to be involved in worship each week and encourage your youth to be involved in youth functions and other activities.
- See that your youth completes their assignments each week. This will allow them to receive the optimum benefit from the confirmation program.
- Remember that Confirmation is a decision that your student needs to make. We may assist them, however, they must choose for themselves whether they are confirmed at the end of the process.
- Plan to make Confirmation Sunday a special day in the life of your family and youth. Confirmation is an important event that should be shared by family and their close friends.

## CALENDAR

### Meetings for Everyone

Sunday, September 11 @ 9:45 a.m.  
All Class Gathering with Parents

Friday-Saturday, April 14-15  
Confirmation Retreat @ Calvin Center  
Cost: \$75

Sunday, May 6 @ 12:00 p.m.  
Lunch and Confirmation Examination

Sunday, May 20 @ 11:00 a.m.  
Confirmation Sunday

### Classes

Group A Class Dates – Sundays @ 9:45 a.m.  
September 11, 25  
October 16, 23, 30  
November 13, 20

Group B Class Dates – Sundays @ 9:45 a.m.  
January 8, 22, 29  
February 5, 12, 26  
March 11, 18

Parents' Confirmation Class – Sundays @ 9:45 a.m.  
January 8, 22, 29  
February 5, 12, 26  
March 11, 18

### Important Dates

September 11  
First day of class/Parents' meeting

March 19  
First opportunity to observe Session meeting

March 21  
Service project/Trinity Serves Day

April 5  
Faith statement due

April 14-15  
Confirmation Retreat @ Calvin Center

April 16  
Second opportunity to observe Session meeting

May 6 @ 12:00 pm  
Luncheon and examination before Session

May 20  
Confirmation Sunday

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
**Confirmand Information Form**

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**Due: Before Sunday, August 28, 2011**



Confirmand's name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address and zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmand's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmand's favorite Bible verse: \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this your favorite verse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tell us a little about yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*\*A high resolution photograph may be e-mailed (as an attachment) to [jryan@trinityatlanta.org](mailto:jryan@trinityatlanta.org).*

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
**Confirmation Covenant**

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**Student**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I recognize that the confirmation process is an important part of my Christian faith and development. The confirmation process is designed to help me grow closer to God, learn what makes the Presbyterian church unique, to develop closer relationships with other Christians, and to learn more about myself and my personal faith so that I might become an active and faithful member of Trinity Presbyterian Church. I am now entering into covenant with Trinity Presbyterian Church, my parents, and other confirmands.

I recognize that in order to fulfill this covenant, I must commit myself to regular attendance, proper conduct, and a community spirit.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s)**

I wish and allow my youth to enter into covenant with Trinity Presbyterian Church's confirmation program. As my youth does, I also enter into this covenant. I will pray for and with my confirmand on a regular basis. I will set up a weekly meeting time to review and help my confirmand with homework assignments and answer questions. I will commit to getting my confirmand to all group meetings, service projects, and events. I will look for opportunities for personal growth as we go through this process together.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



2012  
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### Meetings for Everyone

**September 11 @ 9:45 am**

All-Class Gathering with Parents

**April 14-15 @ Calvin Center**

Confirmation Retreat

**March 19 or April 6 @ 6:00 pm**

Observe Session Meeting

**May 6 @ 12 pm**

Luncheon and examination  
before Session

**May 20 @ 11:00 am**

Confirmation Sunday

## Trinity Presbyterian Church Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is an 8-week program where attendance is required each Sunday. Please select the class that best fits your schedule.

Because class size is limited, switching classes after class schedules are made will not be permitted.

Indicate with the numbers 1 and 2 your first and second choice class preference.

\_\_\_\_\_ Group A - Sundays @ 9:45 am

- September 11, 25
- October 16, 23, 30
- November 13, 20

\_\_\_\_\_ Group B - Sundays @ 9:45 am

- January 8, 22, 29
- February 5, 22, 26
- March 11, 18

Name \_\_\_\_\_