



Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia Confirmation/Commissioning Program

Dear Parents and Seventh & Eighth Graders

Enclosed is a brochure, this letter explaining in detail the confirmation/commissioning process, and response card. Please look then over together and return the enclosed card by August 26, 2007.

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. This year's class make up will include the current seventh and eighth graders.

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, culminating 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 may 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 program, lasting 31 sessions including two day retreats and meeting with the Session. We will begin with an Information Session, on September 9, 2007 during the church school hour and where we will spend time getting to know each other and getting an overview of the Confirmation Journey. This is for both parents and youth! Confirmation will conclude with the class being accepted into church membership on May 13, 2008. In between these events, we will meet for regular class and small group time during the church school hour. Class members are also expected to attend worship at Trinity after class. 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 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 Program?

This program can only work with the commitment of each of the participants. There are many demands and pressures on our time with school, sports, and other extracurriculars. We would ask, however, if you choose to participate in this program for those 31 sessions, 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 there; the more you will receive from the experience. Make-up work and 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.

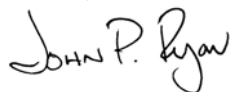
Worship is marked by praise, proclamation, remembrance and prayer. It is our most essential human activity. It is not an option, but an absolute necessity. Worship is the service of God's glory. We commit our lives to furthering the ministry of Jesus Christ, to living for God's glory, and following as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

That being said, attendance weekly morning worship will be considered a part of the confirmation experience. You can attend either the 8:30 am or 11:00 am service. Sit with your parents or your can join John Ryan, Lauren Scharstein, and Matthew Ruffner in the sanctuary balcony at the 11:00 am service.

How do I register?

Simply complete the enclosed postcard and send it to the church before August 26. If you have any questions before then, please contact John Ryan at church (404-495-8456/johnryan@trinityatlanta.org) or cell phone (404-374-3646).

Peace,



John Ryan
Director of Ministry to Youth and their Families