On the Confirmation Services at Camp McDowell
October 8, 2019

As it stands now with one bishop, the visitation schedule assumes the Bishop of Alabama will be able to visit each parish every other year. We recognize that this is a long time between visits, especially as new people come into the congregation and want to be confirmed or received. To address this need, we have set up two services of confirmation at the chapel at Camp McDowell, and we invite parishes from across the diocese to bring people to be confirmed, received, or to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

If you have people wishing to be confirmed, received or reaffirmed, please let them know that these camp services are an option. They may also want to take advantage of the bishop visiting a nearby parish, or they may want to wait until the bishop’s scheduled visit to their own parish. If the choice is to go to a nearby parish, please contact that parish directly to let them know of your intentions and make those arrangements.

If the choice is to go to Camp McDowell, our coordinator for those confirmation services is the Rev. Deacon Jeannie Randall. Her email address is Jrann288@gmail.com. She will need to know the names of people who are coming to be confirmed, received or reaffirmed to prepare for the service, but the records and certificates are your responsibility.

Wherever the confirmation, reception or reaffirmation takes place, the record of it is to be registered in your parish books.

As in all confirmations, receptions and reaffirmations, you will need to contact Judy Hall, the bishop’s assistant (jhall@dioala.org / 205-358-9224) for the Reporting Form and Certificates that we always have for confirmations, receptions and reaffirmations. Please note that we also have certificates for the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

If members of your congregation choose to go to Camp to be confirmed, received or reaffirmed, here are several suggestions we hope will be helpful:

1. Please be sure to check the Diocesan Calendar online to find the dates for these services, or check with Jeannie Randall. If there are enough young people being confirmed or received, Jeannie and some others would like to offer an overnight retreat at Camp which has been very well received. She will need ample time to make these arrangements, so if you know you have young people grades 8-12 who might be interested, please let Jeanne know well in advance.

2. Regardless of age, you need to let Jeannie Randall know who is coming to be confirmed, received or reaffirmed.

3. You will need to request the Certificates and complete the Reporting Form as you would before the bishop’s visit. Please contact Judy Hall in the bishop’s office to request the specific certificates at least two weeks before the service to give her ample time to send them to you. The Reporting Form can be emailed to you if that’s more convenient for
you. After completion of the Form, please mail or email it to Judy Hall. This information becomes part of the Diocesan Journal and part of the Diocese’s report to the Episcopal Church.

4. A reminder that it is the responsibility of each parish to add new member information into ACS, and into your parish books. If you have questions about this, please contact Judy Hall.

5. It is expected that representatives of the parish come to the service at Camp, to present the candidates for confirmation, reception or reaffirmation, and it will be especially meaningful for the clergy to come.

6. The service will be Camp Casual, people are invited to dress comfortably. We will ask some clergy to help with communion, but clergy are not expected to vest.

    Thank you all for your cooperation with this. If you have questions, please contact Judy Hall or Jeannie Randall.