

### **What is QUEST?**

Quest is Hope's Confirmation ministry. Confirmation is a traditional Lutheran practice of Christian education, preparing individuals for taking responsibility for their own faith.

### **Who is QUEST for?**

At Hope, QUEST (or Confirmation) is for students in grades 5-8. It is a four year ministry. However, the Confirmation service is in the fall of their 9th grade year...so in some ways, it is a bit longer than 4 years.

You can join anytime!

### **Why so long!?!**

Well, there is a good reason for that. It depends on what one wants out of Confirmation. If it is strictly an educational program, then possibly it could be done in less time. But, can one really learn about Christianity (or any religion for that matter) by gathering for 20 weeks a year for only one hour over a two year period? That is kind of like saying that one 'could' be confirmed with only 40 hours of study.

We like to think of Confirmation as one step in a life-long journey. Confirmation or "affirming one's baptism" is more about living into the life of a Christian community and less about 'what information you have about religion'?

Therefore we think of Confirmation (QUEST) as having six essential parts.

### **What are the elements of QUEST (Confirmation)?**

#### Relationship

Christianity is more about community than it is about the individual....relationships are essential.

#### Participation

Christianity isn't a spectator sport...it is about participating in God's world and in God's community. There are opportunities built in opportunities to participate in the community.

#### Discussion

What do YOU think? Listening is important, but so is sharing. We learn about God from each other, not just a guy named Martin Luther who has been dead for 500 years or so...therefore, what do YOU think?

#### Service

We could get together every week and study and learn, but faith isn't lived out in our heads with our personal thoughts and opinions about God. Christianity is about serving the 'other'. This might be the most important piece of Confirmation. We will do our best to pack in appropriate service options to meet your needs and schedules.

## Worship/Celebration

Did you ever see the movie *Footloose*? Remember the scene where Ren goes in front of the City Council to convince them they should allow dancing? He talks about celebrating life in that monologue. This is in many ways what 'worship' is; it might be many things, but fundamentally it is about celebrating the life God has given us...so we 'celebrate' every Wednesday when we gather.

and FUN! (umm...yeah...it really should be a little fun right?)

There aren't a lot of positive stories about confirmation from the past. So we feel that fun should also be a part of the experience. So yeah...FUN!

## **What are the requirements of Confirmation?**

We don't have 'requirements'. That is right...none. How can one put 'requirements' on affirming ones own baptism? That is like asking "what are the requirements of faith?" Confirmation isn't about information or requirements (it isn't a test). It *is* about participation on the journey of faith and life. That being said...

We *do* have recommendations on how you as a family might participate...

- Weekly Participation at Quest
- Weekly Journaling...maybe even daily if you like :)
- One Service Project per month (roughly)
- One Fellowship Event (fun activity) per month (roughly)
- Participation in the life of the church (two of the following every month)
  - the EDGE
  - Sing or Play Instrument on Worship Team
  - Read in Sunday Worship
  - Serve Communion in Sunday Worship
  - Usher for Sunday Worship (Family Opportunity)
  - Serve at Coffee Bar for Sunday Worship (Family or Group Opportunity)
  - Clean up after Wednesday meal (Family and/or Group Opportunity)
  - Prepare Communion for Sunday Worship (Family Opportunity)
  - Operate Slides in Sunday Worship
  - Operate Live Stream in Sunday Worship
  - Greeter for Sunday Worship (Family Opportunity)
  - Teach/Assist with Sunday School
  - Assist in the Child Care
  - Participate with Knitting & Crocheting Group
  - And other ministries not listed here!
- Weekend Retreat once per year (Quake, Winter Retreat, etc)
- Summer Camp once per year (Confirmation Camp, Leadership Lab, etc)
- Faith Conversations at home with Parents (yep...parents too!)

### **When does Quest meet?**

First, check the comprehensive schedule [HERE](#). But on a regular basis we meet:

#### **WEDNESDAYS @ 6pm until 7:30pm**

##### **6:00pm - Celebration**

##### **6:25pm - Small Groups**

Talk Sheets on topic

Highs and Lows

Plan and Prep for Celebration Activity

Prayer

### **Is there a meal?**

YES! If you don't have time to cook and eat at home, then a meal is provided at only a few dollars per person. The exact times are not yet set, though likely the meal will be served roughly between 5:30 and 7:45 or so...good option for a busy schedule!

### **Can my child start later if we are coming from another church?**

OF COURSE!! YES!! Our confirmation ministry is not cumulative to the point where someone might miss out if they don't start right on time. It is intended to be fluid and flexible for the needs of your family.

### **How much does it cost?**

First...never let money keep you from participating. It isn't always the easiest of conversations, we know that. However if your family cannot afford something, DO NOT LET THAT KEEP YOUR CHILD FROM PARTICIPATING! Talk to Donnie or Pastor Rob and they will find a way!

Second, much of the cost is covered in your tithe to Hope which supports the staff and the space that is used for Quest, but some costs are more specific to the individual participants.

This year's cost is \$100 which includes:

Background Checks for all adults working with youth

30+ gatherings on Wednesdays

Journals

Curriculum and Copies

T-Shirts

Snacks/Prizes/Games

Small Catechisms

Supplies

Subsidies for Volunteer Expenses

Miscellaneous Costs as they arise