

BUMC CONFIRMATION OVERVIEW 2018-19

CURRICULUM

MAIN CURRICULUM: **Confirm not Conform, Methodist**

Our Confirmation curriculum is titled “*Confirm not Conform*.” It is a unique approach empowering our youth to reflect on their own faith journey. By about age 12, the most important developmental task for youth is to discover one’s own identity. There’s tremendous power in this struggle. Youth can be some of the most amazing revolutionaries, in the best sense of the world: idealistic and inspired to change the world and transform the church.

How *Confirm not Conform* is different?

Our class is about respecting the growing empowerment of the youth and the onset of more adult responsibilities. The class shows, both in content and form, that we believe them capable of making their own faith choices. Our task is to expose them to ideas, religions, experiences and concepts, and let the Holy Spirit and their own engagement do the rest. Our program focuses more on their questions than our answers.

Confirm not Conform is a program that celebrates young people’s spirituality, creativity and responsibility. Over the course of the CnC program, students come to believe we’re serious about giving them a voice and, when they claim it, the results are amazing. The program not only energizes youth; it strengthens and engages the whole congregation. In allowing our young people to grow, we end up growing our whole community.

Our version of *Confirm not Conform* is written for membership in the Methodist Church. In addition to more general sessions on Scripture, church history, the Nicene Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, worship, world religions, and social justice, CnC Methodist includes sessions on:

- The history of Methodism and the doctrine of Christian Perfection
- The meaning of Sacraments in the Wesleyan tradition
- The church year
- The priesthood of all believers

Also starting mid-year, they will design their own service project to present to Church Council. It will be an exciting year.

SUPPLEMENTAL CURRICUM: **LIVE, Journey to Freedom**

Jesus calls us to experience true freedom—yet far too many teenagers face seemingly insurmountable challenges and obstacles. How can we help our students get unstuck from life’s pains and problems?

We will boldly examine some of the toughest issues facing young people today with *LIVE: Journey to Freedom*. These lessons will help our Confirmation youth break free from life’s hurts and habits. Go beyond behavior Band-Aids and cut right to the heart of what’s really going on for true healing. It’s all about finding freedom through Jesus.

Your youth don’t have to remain stuck in the cycle of destructive choices. They don’t have to believe our culture’s lies about who they are. They don’t have to feel trapped by shame and guilt. They don’t have to run away from facing their fears or talking honestly about depression, failure, substance abuse, or other issues facing teens today.

Some teenagers haven’t experienced freedom in Christ because they’ve never examined their issues through a Jesus-centered lens. Others aren’t aware that they truly can be freed from whatever is holding them back. And still others have pursued freedom but get tripped up and return to unhealthy patterns. Whatever their story, *LIVE: Journey to Freedom* will help your youth discover true freedom by understanding who God created them to be.

SERVICE & MISSION

Confirmands are encouraged to engage in learning, discussing and participating in active outreach to our Church and local community. As a part of their Confirmation, they are **required to complete 15 hours (minimum of 8 at BUMC)** of service per Confirmation year. This engagement gives them a deeper sense of what it means to belong to our church community and richer knowledge of how our church functions. It allows them to act as a living example of Jesus Christ. There will be plenty of opportunities for them to complete their service hours. Opportunities include:

VBS (3 hrs. day)	Ushering (1 hour)	Community Work Days (2-4 hours)
Card Ministry (1 HOUR)	Fellowship Hour (1 HOUR)	Events for Children (2-4+ hours)
Knickerbocker Dinner (2-3)	Raking Leaves/Shoveling Snow for Church Members	

They are welcome to provide their own ideas as well. After completing their hours, they will fill out the *Service Hours Record Form*, have it signed and returned to Cindy Gulley.

MENTORING

Mentoring relations are an important part of the confirmation experience. Youth are paired up with parents or community members to meet monthly for faith-based discussions. We will also provide 4 mentoring breakfasts for them to work in their workbooks or simply spend time together. Also, all mentors are welcome to join their confirmand on Worship Sundays, Church Visits and any confirmation related event.

ATTENDANCE

To fully understand the meaning of confirmation, attendance is important and encouraged. We understand our lives are busy, but our hope is that you have chosen confirmation because it is a priority in your lives. The more our confirmands spend together and the more they engage, the better the foundation that is set for subsequent years. It will be a challenging, meaningful and absolutely fun journey for them. While this year we do not have a mandatory attendance requirement, we hope you encourage your youth to attend and model the importance of your faith to them.

CHURCH VISITS & WORSHIP SUNDAYS

In order to make a commitment to the Methodist faith, it is important that they develop an understanding of worship in the United Methodist Church as well as experience worship in other Christian denominations of faith. We will have three church visits throughout the year. Following each visit, we will debrief with the resident Pastor and/or youth minister. It is also encouraged that the confirmands attend worship at our own church. We will schedule special opportunities for them to join you in worship throughout the year.

EVENTS

Throughout the year we will have opportunities for the confirmation class to have fun and bond together as a team. It's important in their journey that they feel comfortable with each other as confirmation marks an important milestone in their lives. We will build a Not-So-Haunted House, travel out to Mapleside Farms, have an Annual Lock-In, among other planned ideas. We will ask for their input as well, since a team that plans together will be more excited. Event information will be provided as we get closer to each event. Look for them on the calendar so you can mark them down!

CONTACTS

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