

**MENTOR MANUAL
CONFIRMATION
2020.2021**



first  rowlett
united methodist church

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment, publicly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation, and becoming members of the church.

The confirmation ceremony for 2020/2021 occurs in early May 2021. It is the first public affirmation of the grace of God in one's baptism and the acknowledgement of one's acceptance of that grace by faith. In other words, confirmands are taking responsibility for living as members of the body of Christ and for fulfilling God's purposes in their lives.

MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A mentor is an adult who is a guide to a Confirmand:

- someone of mature faith who can serve as a guide and companion on this important part of their journey of faith;
- not "perfect"—but has a desire and a witness of living a life of faithful discipleship of Jesus Christ;
- interested in encouraging a young person to express his or her faith and questions openly;
- someone who can listen and recognize that he or she is still growing in faith, rather than an "I have all the answers" kind of adult;
- the same sex as the confirmand;
- preferably a member of First Rowlett UMC who is a dynamic Christian (mentors should be members because they will share in vows of commitment to watch over the student in the life of the church);
- an unrelated adult—we discourage family members as mentors because it is important that your child establish meaningful Christian relationships outside his/her family;
- Someone who can lead conversations with the confirmand, stand with the confirmand on Confirmation Sunday, and do their best to engage at other times in the course of the Confirmation process;
- Mentors are to attend the mentors group meeting on Sunday, September 6th on Zoom (same meeting ID as parent's meeting);
- Mentors are encouraged to attend the Faith Community Visits;
- Volunteer and support classes, retreats and Faith Community visits as needed (approximately once per month).

As safety precautions, we ask mentors to agree to the following:

- Never meet with confirmand alone behind closed doors;
- Never drive the confirmand anywhere unless another adult is in the car.

MENTOR DISCUSSIONS

The goal of Mentor discussions is to get to know one another and share thoughts, experiences and stories—especially the story of how God has been at work in your life. We want you to meet **four independent times** over the course of the Confirmation season so you can hear what the Confirmand is learning, how they are growing and so your relationship has time to develop. The model for the time with the Confirmand (around one hour each session) is:

- Welcome/How was your week?
- Share with the confirmand as described in the grid on the next page. This is your opportunity to share honestly about your faith story. Remember that this is not about you having all the answers or doing everything “right”—but instead sharing from a place that allows confirmands to learn how to tell their own stories, share their own doubts, ask questions, and grow in their journey of discipleship!

Please share in an age appropriate way. The “Share with confirmand” piece should take no longer than 10-minues, be honest—but also take into account that this is not a peer listening to you story, but a child who is considering their own relationship with God, the church and the larger community of believers.

- Ask questions and listen for answers. Don’t be afraid of silence. This is a chance for the confirmand to share bits of their story—or their questions. Allow this time to unfold—as guided by the questions and the Holy Spirit!
- Learn together by opening the Bible and considering what scripture has to say about this particular aspect of discipleship.
- Pray. Always close in prayer—sharing any joys and concerns and inviting the confirmand to share what they have coming up in their lives. As it becomes more comfortable, invite the confirmand to lead the prayer—or for you each to pray for the other.

DATE COMPLETED	<p>Share with Confirmand</p> <p><i>Answer the question below by sharing part of your faith story.</i></p> <p>Ask & Listen</p> <p><i>Now ask the same question you just answered to your confirmand</i></p>	<p>Learn Together</p> <p><i>Read the scripture together and discuss what, if anything, this has to do with our stories we have shared and the way God wants to grow us as disciples.</i></p>
OCT 2020	<p>Who has influenced you the most in your faith?</p> <p>What about them or their life inspired you?</p>	<p>Read Philippians 3:17 & 4:9 Proverbs 9:9 2 Timothy 2:2</p>
DEC 2020	<p>Describe turning points in your life and relationship with God or seasons when you have especially grown in your faith.</p> <p>How did you know what to do?</p>	<p>Proverbs 2:6 & 3:5-6 James 1:5, 4:7 Isaiah 30:21</p>
FEB 2021	<p>What does it look like to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ?</p> <p>How is your faith part of your daily activities, relationship & choices?</p>	<p>Matthew 5:13-16</p>
APR 2021	<p>Describe a moment or experience when you've felt God was present with you.</p> <p>How do you tend to encounter God?</p>	<p>Isaiah 41:10 Romans 8:38-39</p>