

*Welcome to Confirmation at First Congregational UCC!*

Confirmation is a step in one's faith journey. Faith formation begins much before now and will continue far beyond, but this is a time for intentional study and exploration, continuing to build a foundation of knowledge and experience which can nurture and inform personal faith and practice and communal participation. After completing the course outlined below, confirmands will have the opportunity to affirm their faith through the ritual of confirmation during a community worship service.

**Goals of Confirmation**  
**(as created by current youth, parents, and Christian Ed cmte)**

Confirmands will...

**Explore and Develop Personal Faith**, through

- Seeking to discover one's individual gifts and how they can serve the church and world
- Writing and sharing testimony (how Divine Love is at work in one's life)
- Experiencing various prayer styles and spiritual practices
- Understanding the meaning and purpose of confirmation

**Take on Leadership & Responsibility in Church Community**, through

- Worship leadership (first Sunday of each month)
- Designing and implementing a service project
- Learning about the roles in our church & various opportunities for participation

**Articulate what it means to be a Christian and/or Follow Jesus**, through

- Investigating Christian theology (Basic Tenants & distinct UCC flavor)
- Learning about other faiths (reading sacred texts, meeting people, field trips to local faith communities) with the goals of understanding differences and commonalities, and cultivating Interfaith community, trust, and respect.
- Seeking to meet Jesus through personal spirituality, communal worship, and service
- Studying worship (What do we do? Why do we do it? How do we do it? What difference does it make?)
- Engaging the Science vs. Faith Debate (Are they mutually exclusive?)

**Engage with the Bible**, through

- Individual & Group Scripture Study (traditional & innovative styles)
- Historical/Critical Investigation (Who wrote it? What's in it?)
- Synthesizing (What do we believe about the Bible? How do we use it?)

**We will seek to meet these goals through...**

**Weekly Meetings**

Weekly meetings will be incorporated into the regular youth group meetings **Sundays from noon-2pm**. Confirmands are expected to attend **community worship at 10:30am**. Youth will be serving in various leadership roles in worship on the **first Sunday of each month** (greeter, usher, scripture reader, communion server). Confirmands will be expected to attend **80% of scheduled meetings and events** in order to be ready for confirmation in April. **Please check in with Laura by 5pm Friday if you will miss a Sunday ([laura.knepper1106@gmail.com](mailto:laura.knepper1106@gmail.com) or 712-253-3731)**. *Youth who are already confirmed and friends or guests are encouraged to continue to join us during this youth group/confirmation time. Each person's presence and participation, whether or not they are on a confirmation track, can enrich and deepen the group's time together.*

Content will include lessons from *Affirming Faith: a congregation's guide to confirmation* (United Church Press, Cleveland, OH, 2008) as well as supplemental material such as "The Story of the Bible" video series from the History Channel. There will be a mixture of readings, discussions, videos, and interactive experiences. Adult leaders are Molly Dowell Baum, Laura & Chad Stevenson, and Selena & Bill Meacham. Pastor Ryan will also occasionally participate and lead.

**Mentor Program**

**Confirmands will choose their own mentor.** The mentor needs to be an adult who has been a member of a UCC congregation for at least a year, and a committed Christian/Jesus-Follower for at least 2 years. Commitment—to **meet together at least once a month** (think conversation over coffee, a meal, a sporting event, before or after Church function, etc). Conversation starters will be available. Mentors should also plan to attend the **Dec 11, 2016 Blessing for Confirmands** in worship and the **April 30, 2017 Confirmation Ceremony** in worship. Mentors may also be invited to participate in all or part of the retreats. They are invited to the evening portion of the **Camp-in Friday Dec 9 from 5pm-10pm**. There will also be a **mentor's training meeting (TBD)**.

*In accordance with our safe church policy, no adult should ever be alone behind closed doors with a youth (this includes vehicles, so plan to meet up via your own transport). Though we don't anticipate any misconduct, it is for the protection of the youth, the adult, as well as the Congregation's liability.*

**Retreats**

We will have at least two opportunities to step out of our normal routines during the course of the year. The first is planned for **Dec 9-10, 2016** and will be a "Camp In" at the church building from 5pm Friday Dec 9 – Noon on Saturday Dec 10. Another will be planned in the Spring, probably offsite. Like weekly meetings, these will be open to other youth, not restricted to confirmands. Adult leaders and/or mentors will be present.

***Mentor Covenant***

I have reviewed this Confirmation overview and agree to be a mentor for \_\_\_\_\_.  
I will do my best to keep the commitments outlined above. I have submitted and signed a background check form required for working with youth at FCUCC.

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Mentor's Signature

Printed name

Congregation of membership

Date