

FPCA Youth Confirmation Program 2006

Our History: Confirmation has been synonymous with graduation when it comes to church life. In our congregation (and in the main-line churches across the country), our youth attend classes and fulfill requirements in order to satisfy familial traditions and expectations. Upon being confirmed, those who were inactive prior to Confirmation, usually are never seen again, as they see their duties have been met.

The problem with Confirmation, is that it is a “forced” confession of faith, determined by age rather than readiness. Therefore, not everyone takes their Confirmation with the same seriousness or spiritual depth, and though they are pledging their dedication to God and their church, many of them have never really had a connection with either.

In an attempt to make Confirmation more meaningful, and more in-line with its original purpose, we began making it a more “experiential” program, giving the youth an opportunity to connect with the vibrant Christian community around them. The hope has been to reach youth intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, while connecting them to the active worshipping body that is First Pres. Ambler.

This is our 6th year since we changed the look of Confirmation, and I believe, this will be the best we’ve offered yet. It’s an interactive, exciting, meaningful, and fun program. There are requirements that need to be met and we intend to have every student meet them, however we are not inflexible. Our goal is to work together to make it happen.

The Schedule & Expectations:

October 2006–December 2006

1. Sr. High Sunday School: Every Sunday @9:30am, every confirmand must attend Sr. High Sunday school in the youth room.

Oct. 8—Dec. 17
(2 Excused Absences Permitted)

January 2007–May 2007

This winter/ spring section of requirements will focus around class time. These classes will be held during the Sunday school hour 9:30am in the Memorial Conference Room on the 2nd floor.

(3 Excused Absences Permitted)

Jan. 14	<u>Unit 1: God's Love</u>	"God's Unconditional Love"
Jan. 21		"New Life"
Jan. 28		"A Lifestyle of Love"
Feb. 4		"Discipleship"
Feb. 11	<u>Unit 2: Setting a Strong Foundation</u>	"Setting a Strong Foundation"
Feb. 18		"Obedience"
Feb. 25		"Faith"
Mar. 4		"Spiritual Growth"
Mar. 11	<u>Unit 3: God's Will</u>	"The Will of God"
Mar. 18		"Jesus"
Mar. 25		"The Holy Spirit"
Apr. 1		"The Church"
Apr. 8	<u>Easter Sunday</u>	Worship
Apr. 15		"Statements of Faith"
Apr. 22		"Statements of Faith"
May 1 (Tuesday)		Dinner with "The Session" @6pm
May 20		Confirmation Sunday

Other Expectations:

Workcamp 2007

All confirmands will be expected to participate in this year's mission trip. This includes all meetings, fundraisers, and additional requirements specific to the trip itself. The cost will be treated in the same way as any other participant, which is directly proportional to the amount of money the group raises. If money is an issue, we have scholarships available.

If Workcamp is an impossibility, then you can make arrangements with Sarah to fulfill this requirement.

Sunday Night B.A.S.I.C.

All confirmands are expected to attend a **minimum of 3** youth group meetings, events, or activities between Oct. and Dec. And, they are expected to attend a **minimum of 3** between Jan. and May, **for a total of 6. Retreats or overnights at the church count for 3.**

Bible Study

All confirmands are expected to attend a **minimum of 2** Bible Studies between Oct. and Dec., and a **minimum of 2** between Jan. and May, **for a total of 4.**

Worship

All confirmands are expected to either usher, greet or be a lay reader in a **minimum of 2** worship services between Oct. and Dec., and a **minimum of 2** between Jan. and May, **for a total of 4.** To schedule a time, please call: Rich Myers @ 215-646-0825.

Remember, these expectations are firm, but not unbendable. We pledge to work with your family to make this program happen.

Thank you, and may God bless this year's confirmation class!

**If you have any questions or anything at all, please contact:
Sarah Kittrell @215-646-3030 or email: sarah@fpcambler.org**