



Diocese of Newark
CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

Recommendations for Confirmation Preparation

In 2004, Bishop John P. Croneberger charged the Christian Formation Commission (CFC) with the responsibility of designing and executing a Confirmation Preparation Retreat for those about to be confirmed in the church. As members of the Commission pursued this work, it became evident that confirmation preparation at the congregational level is comprised of significant variations in both form and content. In keeping with the CFC's mission to enhance and expand spiritual growth at every opportunity, a subcommittee was formed to formulate an outline of structure and content to help rectors, youth leaders, and mentors build more effective confirmation programs that would bring our confirmands a more consistent level of preparation across our diocese. It is our hope that these guidelines will be an aid to all who bear the responsibility of helping our youth make a "mature commitment" to the Christian faith in our Episcopal tradition.

Structure of Confirmation Preparation

- Minimum Grade level completed - 6th Grade
- Time commitment – minimum of 40 hours

Required Activities

- Attendance at all confirmation classes (specified # of excused absences).
- Mission/Outreach: making your faith real by answering Christ's command to love one another (ex: 8 hours of service or 3 projects).
- Worship: mandatory attendance at specified services, especially high holy days.
- Community-based Education: have regular faith conversations with parents/guardians/mentors; have some 'homework assignments' be completed together with parents/guardians/mentors; have the vestry and confirmands share a meal.
- Diocesan Retreat: one overnight retreat.

Content

These recommendations express a minimalist approach; in other words, these components reflect the minimum knowledge/information to be discussed with potential confirmands.

Bible

- Bible "mechanics" (usage)
- Table of Contents
- Chapter and verse citation
- Difference between Old Testament and New Testament
- Key persons
- Historical timeline

Book of Common Prayer

- Binding characteristic of our tradition
- Creeds
- Baptismal Covenant
- Offices
- Eucharistic Prayers
- Prayers and Thanksgivings

Sacraments

- Catechistic definition; identify what they are and how administered.
- Be able to find appropriate services in BCP.

Christian Identity

- The life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and how it relates to our lives
- Brief history of Christianity
- What it means to be an Episcopalian (scripture, tradition, reason)
- Real life issues and how to deal with them as a Christians (ethics)
- Knowledge of liturgical seasons (ex: Lenten discipline, Advent Quite Day, visit to United Nations for Pentecost)

Prayer

- Explore ways of praying
- Examine *Prayers and Thanksgivings* in BCP, pp. 810-841

Ministry

- What it means to ALL be ministers; involvement in ministry within the church
- Connection between God-given gifts and service in God's name - Discernment of personal ministry
- Post-confirmation involvement in congregational life

Appendix

Article: "A Confirming Imagination: Some Considerations and Ideas"

Overview of Curricula

Sample Schedule of Lessons

Sample Youth Covenant

Sample Parent Covenant

Bishop Anand Resource Center flyer