

Confirmation Mentors: Some Guidelines

2015-2016

The purpose of this mentor program is to give each of you a space and time in which to talk about your faith and doubts, and your hopes and concerns, your ideas and your practices. A mentor is not a “professional Christian,” nor are you someone who has a lot of answers. Rather, you are someone who continues to live out a commitment to be an adult in the church, to question and refine what it means to be faithful, and to explore new ways of understanding and expressing your faith. While our students will learn new information in the class, it’s at least as important that they learn to talk about their faith, and that we provide them with a space where important questions are asked. Your relationships with one another will, I hope, be rich and meaningful.

You will not be a Sponsor (who will stand beside the youth being confirmed), unless you both decide that you would like this to be the case. But all the Mentors will be at Confirmation, standing with the Sponsors, and my hope is that you will continue stay in touch with one another after Confirmation as you continue to become an adult in the church.

The expectation is that you will talk together once a month or 6 weeks. These may be conversations on the telephone or by email, or you may meet at church or go out for coffee or lunch on Sunday. In your first conversation you might want to set the dates for your subsequent meetings. It can be a structured or as loose as you both find most comfortable.

The following are guidelines for how to give a focus to your conversations. As time passes, you may find that you talk about several of these topics each time, in different ways, or in a different order. These guidelines are meant to be just that: reference points as you find your own way together in the coming weeks.

1. **Getting acquainted** – Share interests, your experience at St. Andrew’s or St. John’s, expectations for your time together; talk about Confirmation – its meaning and your memories.
2. **Baptism** – Share stories about 5 milestones in your faith journey; consider what your baptismal vows mean in your life – now.
3. **Holy Communion** – What means the most to you about Holy Communion? What has been a favorite experience of worship at St. John’s or St. Andrew’s?
4. **The Church** – What is your experience of the church outside of this congregation? What continues to draw you to the church? What do you see as your future in the church? What do you value most about your own congregation? About the covenant between St. John’s & St. Andrew’s.
5. **Ministry** – When has someone “ministered” to you? What do you think is the difference between calling your work “ministry” and calling it a “job.”? What activities within the church seem most interesting to you?
6. **Prayer** – How? When? Why? Where?