

Declaring Faith

Confirmation: Student Ministry New Members Class

For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. 1 Peter 4:6

This milestone provides the opportunity for our high school students (grades 9-12) to become fully participating members of our church community. Through the six-week class our students will look at and learn what it means to join the church: who is God, who is Jesus, who is the Holy Spirit, what is the Bible, and how to grow as a Christian.

This class is also an opportunity for students to put into words and make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ. At the end of the classes, students will be asked to give their testimony before the elders; not so they can be judged as suitable or not, but so they have opportunity to formally make their public profession of Jesus Christ as Lord.

Our students will receive teaching not only from the Student Ministry staff and other church staff members, but they will also be required to have a mentor work with them during this time. The mentor will help the students process their desire to join the church, their understanding of faith, and their relationship with Jesus Christ. It is also an opportunity for inter-generational ministry, with each high school student connecting with an adult other than his or her parent or Student Ministry staff member. These relationships often last far beyond the scope of the class and they are encouragements for both the student and the mentor.

Romans 10:9 tells us that “if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” In the confirmation class our students will learn more about what they believe and will have the opportunity to make a declaration of their faith.

The Student Ministry staff loves the opportunity that Confirmation provides. We realize that the class lasts for only six weeks, but with parental support, spiritual nurturing and discipleship- making done at home, this milestone provides the opportunity for continued and lifelong spiritual development.

Resources:

Quest of Faith: Understanding What You Confess by Robert DeMoor (Faith Alive Christian Resources)

The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus by Lee Strobel (Zondervan)

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism by Timothy Keller (Riverhead Trade)

Everyday Prayers: 365 Days to a Gospel-Centered Faith by Scotty Smith (Baker Books)

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