Confirmation That Sticks

Discovering the power of Confirmation
Creator God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon us your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace. Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know you and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

(BCP, 308)
An Overview: Focus & Purpose

Inspirational, and grounded; Informative, and open to conversation.
Who are You?

• Introduce yourself and where you’re from . . .

• Share a story of your baptism, confirmation, or how you are growing as a disciple of Christ.
What is Confirmation in The Episcopal Church?

Debunking the “Myths”

Discovering the “Facts”
Introducing the 

A “Christian Youth: Learning and Living the Faith” five-year research project provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. which sought to learn the extent to which confirmation and equivalent practices are effective for strengthening discipleship in youth in five Protestant denominations.

http://theconfirmationproject.com
What is Confirmation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Epis. Parents</th>
<th>Epis. Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affirmation of baptismal covenant</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth move into mature faith</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sealing of baptism</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public validation of baptism</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to participation Eucharist</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become a member of congregation</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulfillment of parental responsibility</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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Understanding of Confirmation

**Leaders**: Emphasize theology/doctrine

**Parents**: Emphasize completion

**Students**: Emphasize relevance*

*Youth who indicated that confirmation was not enjoyable were likely to decrease in faith measurements.*
Significant findings

- Confirmation assumes some familiarity with the Christian story, Christian practices, and the church’s theology.
- Confirmation can provide an opportunity for young people to encounter the gospel anew.
- Leaders need to create an “ecology of learning environments.”

1. youth confirmation matters!!!
2. committed, faithful shared leadership
3. relevant & real program
4. faith-forming ecology
5. christian community
6. intentional commitment to inquiry-based learning with & across generations
7. local flavor
8. christian foundation for public life
9. public rite of faith affirmation
Learnings from an Episcopal Perspective

The “Good” News

• We have the resources
• It is an opportunity to grow deeper in faith

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Episcopal</th>
<th>ELCA</th>
<th>PC (USA)</th>
<th>UMC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3 Months</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 Months</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12 Months</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-24 Months</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 2 Years</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Duration</td>
<td>5 Months</td>
<td>24 Months</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
<td>4 Months</td>
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The “Not So Good” News

• No unified focus, re: age, preparation, time
• Lack of continuing formation
Key Learnings

- **Design** – custom-designed & contextually adaptive
- **Leadership** – faithful & committed leadership matters and is shared
- **Ecology** – Confirmation is one aspect of a larger learning, discipleship, and communal whole
- **Curriculum** – relationships are a key element, more than any printed curriculum
For the Episcopal Church:

Confirmation is a unique opportunity for young people to:

- **Strengthen** their understanding of the Christian faith
- **Deepen** their experience of Christian community
- **Discern** their call to join God’s mission in the world
The Confirmation Challenge
The 30-Day Confirmation Challenge
A journey of faith toward deeper commitment to Christ
The Church of St. Clement
September 28th - Oct 16th 2019
READY...SET...GROW!

Days 1 – 10 Where is God in your life?

Sunday, Sept 15/Day 1
Think about the last 24 hours. What has God given you that has brought you joy?
Name it, and give thanks.

Notes:

Scripture for the day:
Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Phil 4:4

Monday, Sept. 16/ Day 2
Reflect on your experience of attending Church.
Where during worship do you feel God’s presence?

Notes:

Scripture for the day:
You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11
The Confirmation Collaborative

“We believe, and the research confirms, that confirmation is the claiming of baptism and an invitation to a life of deeper discipleship lived in community.

When confirmation preparation is done intentionally and done well on the local and diocesan level as baptismal affirmation, it has an impact on the spiritual lives of youth as part of a lifelong call to discipleship. It can transform ourselves, each other, and the entire Church.”
Questions & Conversation

Join the conversation . . .

. . . What are your questions?
Almighty God, look with favor upon us we reaffirm our commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(adapted BCP, p. 421)