

June 30, 2011

Dear [mail merge parents]

I'm writing in follow up to announce a new plan for Confirmation Preparation in our Region for older youth.

In response to the guidelines issued by the Diocese regarding Confirmation, a group of Colorado Springs area Episcopal Churches have gathered to offer Confirmation Preparation for Youth. This is a 2-year process per the guidelines, includes participation by each confirmand's local Church, mentors, and covers each of the seven required areas.

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of the Church by which we know God's grace both prior to and in response to our faith and commitment, and it expressed the individuals ownership of their own faith. Confirmation is an opportunity for one to say, "I believe in Jesus and have received his gift of salvation, and will live my life as a Christian pursuing the Lord, holiness of life, and engaged community with the Church." The promise is to do this with the faith as received in The Episcopal Church – our Church.

#### HOW THIS PREPARATION WORKS

The guidelines highly recommend two-years of purposeful engagement in preparation, including being active in a local congregation's worship life and ministry, and encourages active participation in youth group. The CS Area Confirmation Prep take on the responsibility for providing the pieces in addition to worship, ministry, and youth group required, including building practical faith skills and age-appropriate proficiency in the seven areas in the guidelines:

- Holy Scripture
- The Book of Common Prayer
- Service & the Life of the Baptized
- Mission and Community
- Prayer
- Faith and Practice (including worship, ethics, stewardship, moral decision making, and theological reflection)
- Episcopal Polity

The content is as provided in the Creeds, Holy Bible, Book of Common Prayer and is true to the Episcopal Church and Christian Faith.

#### THE TWO YEAR CYCLE

The 2-year cycle begins this Fall with year 1, but as this is an inaugural year for the 2-year plan, it will also include year 2 for those who will be 16 by Confirmation 4/2012:

#### Fall 2011

- Year 1: those preparing for confirmation in and who will be at least 16 years of age by Spring 2013
- Year 1& 2: those preparing for confirmation in and who will be at least 16 years of age by Spring 2012

#### Fall 2012

- Year 2: those preparing for confirmation in and who will be at least 16 years of age by Spring 2013
- Year 1: those preparing for Confirmation in and who will be at least 16 yeast of age by Spring 2014

#### Fall 2013

- Year 2: those preparing for confirmation in and who will be at least 16 years of age by Spring 2014
- Year 1: those preparing for Confirmation in and who will be at least 16 yeast of age by Spring 2015

(pattern continues)

I want to be clear, only this fall will there by 2 years covered; from here on out all must complete 2 years for this ministry to be the route for Confirmation. I encourage conversations with your youth to discuss this commitment with one another, Bill Clewe, and me. Maybe this is the year Confirmation makes sense.

#### MENTORS

Each Confirmand is paired with an adult mentor, already Confirmed in or Received into The Episcopal Church. It is the responsibility of the youth and their local congregation to choose a mentor who will participate for the 2 years.

#### HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is through

<http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth/confirmation-preparation>. Both Confirmands and Mentors should register.

#### MEETING PLACE AND TIME

For consistency, we meet the 2nd Sunday of the month September - May, 1pm - 3pm, at St. Michaels (7400 Tudor Road, CS), except in April and May (4/15, 5/6 in 2012). St. Matthias youth will join with those from other Episcopal Churches in our area!

For some youth, this isn't the time. And so this "course" will be offered each year. And be praying that, at the right time, they will own their faith in a way that Confirmation will be a blessing to them.

In both responses, St. Matthias, the Lord, and I are with them and for them and love

them. Too early isn't healthy or holy, nor is too late. Please see the enclosed letters and promotion material. Give me a call if you have any questions. God bless you in the call Christ has for us as parents!

In Christ,

The Rev. Scott D. Campbell, Rector