

# Vision & Desired Outcomes for Confirmation Ministry

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## Vision (a preferred future)

Five years after being confirmed:

We see our young people of \_\_\_\_\_ Church giving spiritual leadership within their faith communities. We see them living their faith daily and confidently sharing their faith in Christ with others. We see that Christ makes a difference in their lives and, as they share their faith, they make a difference in the lives of others.

## Desired Outcomes Of The Confirmation Journey

- To be disciples of Jesus Christ, actively engaged in the marks of discipleship: prayer, reading of Scripture, devotions, regular worship, stewardship, mission, and ministry.
- That they know the six chief parts of the Christian faith, as defined in Luther's *Small Catechism*.
- That they know the main stories of God's plan of salvation in the Scriptures.
- That they are equipped to share their faith and pass on the faith.
- To be spiritual leaders within a faith community.
- To support the parents, grandparents, and godparents to keep the promises they made at the student's baptism.

## Appropriate Age and Focus (some grades and foci might be connected)

6<sup>th</sup> Grade--Biblical History and Ten key Bible stories of God's plan of salvation

7<sup>th</sup> Grade—Expanding the learning of Old Testament and New Testament Stories

8<sup>th</sup> Grade & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade—The Six Chief Parts of Faith (Catechism)

## Expectations of the Students

- Weekly meals and devotions with family (without any electronics or phone).
- Worship regularly with family.
- Do all the assignments weekly with the family.
- Find or receive an adult from the membership of the congregation to be a faith mentor during and after the confirmation ministry.
- Student and parents, at least one hour per week, use online resources made available.
- Attend confirmation camp (if offered) or other special cross + generational events.
- Work on special faith formation project(s) before the rite of confirmation

## Expectations of Parents

- Worship regularly with their child.
- Attend occasional classes designed for intergenerational learning.
- Practice spiritual disciplines in the home (Four Keys of Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions using Taking Faith Home and/or other resources developed for the home).
- Eat a meal together with your children at least three times a week (without electronics or phone).
- Do parent homework as assigned.
- Establish the monthly meeting date and time with the pastor.

## **Expectations of Faith Mentor**

- Attend Faith Mentor Training
- Check with parents and student to establish a meeting at least once per month
- With permission of parents, write or email the student to encourage the student to keep working at growing in faith
- Establish a caring relationship with the student and, hopefully, continue beyond the confirmation growth program
- Check with the prayer team leaders to suggest how the team might pray for the student at a given time frame and also for the Faith Mentor.
- Report any at risk behavior of the student to the pastor
- If possible, attend some of the school and extra curricular activities of the student.
- Remember the youth on her or his baptism anniversary.

## **Expectations of the Pastor/Facilitator**

- Be prepared to facilitate each pastoral lesson
- Provide options for student and parents to accomplish the desired outcomes
- Develop optional retreats, workshops, intergenerational learning events that are connected to the vision and desired outcomes for the students and/or parents to learn together in a fun way and a different setting.
- Pray for each student and family daily.
- Be flexible with each family and provide optional ways of accomplishing the desired outcomes.
- Be familiar with all the resources and teach the family how to use the resources.
- Email the student and family at least once per month to encourage them to stay on focus with the learning activities. Invite the student and parent(s) to contact the pastor with any questions concerning the learning objectives.
- Care for the student and the family
- Stay connected to the faith mentors and prayer team leaders
- Establish with the family and student when the milestone of confirmation will be celebrated within the congregation. It is suggested that we have several confirmation milestone celebrations, rather than a class celebration on one date, so that it does not appear as a graduation from Christian education and discipleship training.

## Expectations of the Congregation

- To value and encourage parents to attend worship with their children
- To provide adequate financial support within the congregation's yearly budget so that each family can receive all the resources used to help them grow deeper in Christ and practice their faith in home, congregation, and community.
- To volunteer as a prayer team person or a faith mentor.
- To intentionally and regularly encourage young people in their faith journey, to listen to them, and to attend some intergenerational learning events with them.
- To develop unique gifts for the student and /or family marking the milestone celebration of confirmation (FaithChest®; advanced study Bible; CD of songs of faith; banner; banquet; etc.
- Provide "next steps" beyond confirmation for the family as they continue to journey deeper in faith as disciples of Jesus.
- Send a baptismal anniversary card to each student each year.

## Expectations of Prayer Team

- Attend training event
- Choose team leader to contact student and /or family and faith mentor to determine the focus of the prayers for a given time.
- Meet at least once every other week to pray for the student, family, and faith mentor.