

## Faith Statement Guidelines

1. Your faith statement should be between one and three pages.
2. Your faith statement should include a bible verse that you have chosen as your Confirmation verse. Share this verse either at the beginning or end of your statement (or both) and say something about why you chose that particular verse and what it means to you.
3. Your faith statement should be about your faith, not your parents' or youth director's or pastor's faith. You can ask your parents, grandparents, friends or mentors for help, but this statement should be your own thoughts in your own words.
4. Your faith statement is simply a short essay about
  - A) what you believe or what being Christian means to you
  - B) how you have experienced God or Jesus in your life and
  - C) where or how you think God might lead you in the future to use the gifts you've been given to fulfill your baptismal call
5. You can structure your faith statement any way you want. You can present your statement through artistic or creative means (e.g. painting, dancing, a musical piece sung or played) as long as you explain how it represents your faith. You can talk about people who have helped you grow in your faith, things you believe about Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit, fears or struggles you've had on your faith journey, or questions you still have. The possibilities are endless.
  - The first draft of your **Faith Statement is due October 17**, where you will practice reading your faith statement in front of our confirmation group.
  - All Faith Statements will be presented to the congregation at **both services on Sunday, October 28—Reformation Sunday**. We will do the rite of Confirmation (the Affirmation of Baptism) at the **10:30 service**.

Remember, your confirmation classes are meant to prepare you to confirm your own faith before God, your family, and the church. During the rite of Confirmation (the Affirmation of Baptism), you take upon yourself the promises your parents and sponsors made for you when you were baptized. By being confirmed you are promising to do the following:

- 1) To live among God's faithful people
- 2) To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper (i.e. attend worship)
- 3) To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- 4) To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- 5) And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Of course, no one fulfills these promises perfectly, and we all have to ask forgiveness on a daily basis for the ways we fail to live up to our baptismal call. However, you shouldn't make these promises out of pressure or because it's what you're "supposed to do". If you don't believe in or understand these promises or if you feel unprepared to make them, that's okay! You don't have to be confirmed now. Wait another year. Keep attending youth group and confirmation. Allow yourself time to grow in your faith. There's no shame in waiting; just be true to yourself. If you have any concerns or questions, please talk to me or Amanda. We are here for you! Pastor Kinndlee