



"He was a great mentor – giving it his all and taught us in a way we could relate to. I can not only go to him with religious questions but also with life questions." -Confirmand

June 15, 2011

Dear Parents of Incoming Freshmen:

We are excited to have your student engage in this journey of faith discovery and discipleship. This Adventure begins September 18, 2011 and culminates on January 29, 2012 at our Milestone Celebration worship service. At that time, we will celebrate this milestone in the lives of our students as they "confirm" their intention to invite Jesus into the center of their story – into the center of their lives.

This Registration Packet is to help you and your student on this journey the following and is further described below:

- **Adventure Overview** [page 2]
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- **2011-2012 Calendar** [page 4]
- **Four Doors of Exploration – Expanded Calendar** [page 5]
- **Registration Form** [pages 6-9]

Adventure Overview

Confirmation is a relational triad, or partnership, between the student, parent, and mentor. The contribution of each member of this triad is vital to ensure the success of the student's Confirmation experience. The first corner of this "triad triangle" is your student. His/her willingness to complete the assignments and dedication to the Confirmation process is imperative. The second corner is the church – represented by the mentor. In addition to the Koinonia gatherings, mentors will meet regularly with students to encourage and guide them through a journey in spiritual formation, which includes church doctrines and requirements for membership at CCOB. The third corner is you. We realize that parents are often the driving force behind the process, making schedule adjustments to the family calendar, and informing the student ministry office of any significant issues pertaining to their student's involvement in this Confirmation Adventure.

Adventure Calendar

Our calendar lists the various **MANDATORY** Confirmation dates essential for the Confirmation process. We cannot excuse students from these meetings for any reason except illness or family emergency (which will be made up in a timely manner), so please note these dates and post the calendar on your refrigerator.

Four Doors of Exploration [expanded calendar]

The Fall Sabbath, Spirit Village, The Prayer Path, and My Story Project are all explained in detail on this page.

Registration Form

The enclosed registration form is due no later than August 15, 2011. Registration is free.

If you have any questions, we would encourage you to call us. We are dedicated to making this Adventure of faith discovery and discipleship a meaningful and spiritual experience for your student.

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Confirmation Adventure Overview



men • tor. *n.* a person of vibrant faith who walks alongside a high school student on a faith journey

con • fir • mand. *n.* a 9th grade student* who desires to explore or confirm his/her faith as a follower of Christ alongside a small group of fellow Confirmands

Our *Mentor-Based Confirmation Adventure* is a discipleship journey, anchored in community:

- **mentor group:** is centered around an adult mentor and 2-4 high school students, walking together as a small group, through our Confirmation Adventure, September 18, 2011 – January 39, 2012. It is all about relationship – with God and one another.
- **koinonia community:** is comprised of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who intentionally walk together through their high school years. Our Mentor Groups journey with our Koinonia Community for their Confirmation Journey, Sunday evenings, 7:00-8:45pm.
- **mentor group journey:** happens primarily during the regular “Small Group Meeting” timeslot @ Koinonia as well as outside (at Starbucks, Corner Bakery, etc.) to check-in with one another, complete a section of our “Guidebook”, pray, and do life together.
- **four doors of exploration:** provide each Confirmand with four opportunities to further explore and deepen his/her faith. Each door is based on one of the four ways that we tend to connect with God. These “doors” are outlined on the *Journey Itinerary*.

In our *Mentor-Based Confirmation Adventure*, students enter as an *Inquirer* or a *Journeyer*.

in • quir 'er *n.:* one investigating faith – but without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

jour 'ney • er (n): one with faith in Christ – ready to confirm a relationship as a disciple of Christ

Our hope and prayer is that our Confirmands emerge from this faith journey as a disciple of Christ -- deeply in love with Jesus Christ and deeply connected to our high school Koinonia community. The faith journey of a disciple of Jesus Christ is not to be one of isolation but one of community, as we walk alongside each other, seeking to develop a deeper connection to Christ and to one another. Our goal is that students would be “velcroed” to God and to our community of students who desire to *worship, grow* and *serve* as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**while 9th grade students comprise the majority of students on this faith journey, Confirmation is open to all high school students*



Frequently Asked Questions



We hope that this page answers any questions about the Adventure of faith discovery and discipleship that might come up for you. If you do not find your question on this page or need more information beyond a listed answer, please contact Dave or Laurie. Knowing your question will help us further answer and anticipate questions folks might have in the years to come – Thanks!

Why does Christ Church place Confirmation in 9th Grade vs. 8th Grade?

We have a confirmation small group discipleship experience for incoming frosh students so that they can engage with the community they are moving into for the next four years rather than a middle school community which they will soon be leaving behind.

Why is “confirmation” the entry point for Small Groups in High School?

Beginning high school is a big deal. Engaging in a smaller Mentor Group with three to four other same gender students, alongside an Adult Mentor, helps us travel closely alongside one another while navigating the transition into high school. Our regular small groups are gender and class based with an average size of 15 active students. Starting in February our Frosh Students move into gender-based “Frosh Small Groups”, just like our already established 10th, 11th, and 12th grades Groups.

Why is the attendance policy so strict?

We ask a lot of our frosh students, believing consistency early in the high school journey will promote consistency throughout their faith life in the years to come. We also believe that each event and meeting time offers a unique faith experience that we do not want our students to miss. We have found that consistency helps build community.

I go to a different church, what does this mean for me?

At Christ Church we talk about *The Kingdom of God* [with a “BIG K] and *Confirmation* [with a little c] believing that an experience like “confirmation” is all about students discovering and “confirming” their faith in Christ in the midst of a Christian community that supports, encourages, and feeds their life as a Follower of Jesus Christ. Taking a BIG K approach means that confirmation is an attitude, not a ritual. A BIG K approach means that any student, from any Christian community, is welcome at the table. Taking a BIG K approach means that we move beyond denominations toward a Kingdom of God way of life where Jesus Christ is invited into the center of our lives and is at the center of our community.

I have already been “confirmed” in my home church, can I still participate?

Yes. All students are welcome in our High School Ministry. We have found that students in this situation still benefit and enjoy walking through this Adventure with a Mentor Group. Understanding that confirmation (with a little c) is about a choice to move toward God, in community, with “confirmation” becoming a discipleship experience of **confessing** Christ, **confirming** that relationship, and **connecting** with our Koinonia Community.

What is my role as a Parent of a Student entering Christ Church’s High School Community?

Building a calendar fence around Sunday evenings is one of the best ways to help your student fully engage with this small group experience. We have found that posting the Confirmation Calendar [page 4] in the center of your home and helping your student follow through on attending is one of the biggest challenges, especially with the fast pace life most student’s experience in their frosh year. Subscribing to our HS Parent Enews, visiting my.cc-ob.org/highschool, or “liking” our facebook page (facebook.com/CCOBKoinonia) are two ways to be in the know about everything happening in our Christ Church High School Community.

“We confirm something each and every day – proclaiming that it is ours. [confirmation] = stating that this is “my” faith in Jesus Christ”





PLEASE POST ON FAMILY REFRIGERATOR

Attendance and participation in each of the events listed below is necessary to successfully complete Confirmation. Illness/Family Emergency is the only excusable reason to miss a meeting (each student is allowed one absence). Absences must be communicated to the Students' Mentor prior to the meeting. Missed meetings must be made-up in a timely manner. All meetings will be held in the Student Center unless otherwise stated. The Fall Sabbath, Spirit Village, My Story Project, and Prayer Path are *Four Doors of Exploration* each Confirmand is required to complete. Meetings with an (*) will be scheduled by the Mentor Group. Some Mentor Groups (MG) may add additional meetings.

DATE	7:00-8:00pm KOINONIA	8:00-8:45pm MENTOR GROUP	SPECIAL NOTES
09.04.11	No Koinonia	Labor Day Weekend	
09.11.11	Welcome Back BBQ!	Confirmands Attend	7-8:30pm CCOB Parking Lot
09.18.11	Vision Night	Mentor Groups Meet	Confirmation Launch 5:30pm
09.25.11	1st Fall Series: #1	MG's Meet	
10.02.11	1st Fall Series: #2	MG's Meet	
10.09.11	1st Fall Series: #3	MG's Meet	
10.16.11	Pre-Fall Sabbath Nite	MG's Meet	
10.21-23, 11		Fall Sabbath	[Door of Connection]
10.23.11	No Koinonia	No Meeting	Sabbath Weekend
10.30.11	2nd Fall Series: #1	MG's Meet	
11.06.11	2nd Fall Series: #2	MG's Meet	
11.13.11	2nd Fall Series: #3	MG's Meet	
11.20.11	Storytellers	MG's Meet	
11.27.11	No Koinonia	No Meeting	Happy Thanksgiving!
12.03.11		Spirit Village	[Door of Service]
12.04.11	½ & ½ Night*	MG will Schedule	TBA
12.11.11	Advent PAW Night	No Meeting	Confirmands attend Koinonia
12.18.11	Drama/Improv Nite	No Meeting	Confirmands attend Koinonia
01.01.12	New Year's Day	No Meeting	Happy 2012 ☺
01.05-07.12		Prayer Path	[Door of Spiritual Formation]
01.08.12	Pre-Final Worship Chill	MG's Meet	
01.08.12		"My Story"	[Door of Faith Reflection]
01.15.12	Student Storytellers	MG's Meet	
01.22.12		Wrap-Up Dinner [to go]	[5:00pm before Koinonia]
01.22.12	3 rd Winter Series #1	Mentor Group (5-7pm)	No 8-8:45pm Mentor Group
01.29.12	Confirmation Sunday Worship Service		6:00pm CCOB Sanctuary

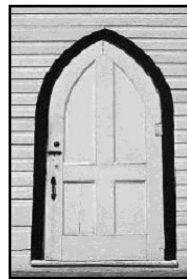
F O U R D O O R S O F E X P L O R A T I O N



DOOR OF COMMUNITY
FALL SABBATH
OCTOBER 21-23, 2011



DOOR OF SERVICE
SPIRIT VILLAGE
DECEMBER 3, 2011



DOOR OF FAITH REFLECTION
MY STORY PROJECT
DUE JANUARY 8, 2012



DOOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION
THE PRAYER PATH
JANUARY 5-7, 2012

Four Doors of Exploration



As part of your Confirmation Adventure you will have the opportunity to walk through four doors, which are designed to lead you to a place of greater depth and breadth in your faith journey. Behind each door you will find an experience centered on four different ways that we connect with God. We will cover these four points of connection when you go through the *Spirituality Wheel* in your Mentor Group. Our hope is that you would be able to walk through all four of these doors – a minimum of (3) doors are required to successfully complete this Confirmation Journey:



Door of Community (relational connection)

Fall Sabbath Retreat: Timber Lee, Wisconsin: October 21-23, 2011

This door takes you to our Fall Sabbath Retreat, held each fall at a camp in Wisconsin. This is a weekend of seeking God and discovering new friendships (and renewing old ones) with fellow students. We leave Friday afternoon and return Sunday afternoon. Previous Confirmands have really enjoyed this opportunity to go deeper with God and their peers. Please know that there is an additional charge for this retreat and that spots fill up quickly. Sabbath Registration opens the second week of September and closes at the end of October. Each year, well over one hundred students made it to the Fall Sabbath.



Door of Service (kingdom connection)

Spirit Village – December 3, 2011 – 10:00am – 4:00pm

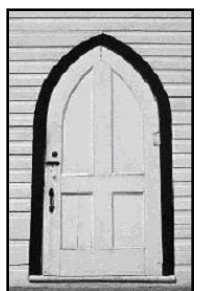
This door takes you to Spirit Village, held at Christ Church each December as a alternative Christmas shopping event, tied to our missionary partners. To walk through this door, you must sign-up, either through your Mentor or at Koinonia, to serve on the ministry team that makes this huge event happen. After the event you will need to **complete** a *Door Journal Reflection Page* and hand it into your Mentor. Another approved service opportunity can be substituted for Spirit Village as well.



Door of Spiritual Formation (mystic connection)

Prayer Path Experience – January 5-7, 2012 – scheduled appointment

This door takes you to the Prayer Path, a canvas mat loaded with experiential elements that you walk through, guided by a narrator via headphones. Spiritually, it is a journey toward meeting God in the center, and then traveling out again. The journey *in* is about dealing with things that come between you and God. The center is a place of prayer. The journey *out* is about how meeting God bears fruit in your life. **Sign-up** for a Prayer Path entry time in December at Koinonia. Afterwards, you will need to complete a *Door Journal Reflection Page* on your experience in The Prayer Path and give it to your Mentor.



Door of Faith Reflection (mind connection)

My Story Project – completed by January 8, 2012

This door takes you on a journey of reflection, study, and introspection as you connect your journey as an Inquirer or Journeyer to God's Word. You will engage, alongside your fellow Confirmands, in understanding and articulating "Your Story". You will learn more about this project in your Mentor Group.





welcome.

Please set aside a sufficient amount of time (Parent / Student) to thoughtfully complete this registration form.

This will be time well-spent since the information you provide will be used to enhance the *Mentor-Based Confirmation Adventure* for you and your student.

This registration form is to be completed by the student alongside a parent.

Section #1: Student completes
Section #2: Complete together and both sign
Section #3: Parent completes and signs

All information provided will be held in the strictest confidence.

Please return this form (Registration is free) to the Student Ministry Office.

Registration opens June 15th and closes August 15th, 2011.



Section #1

Student Information *(to be completed by student)*



Name: _____
first middle last

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____@_____

What is the best phone number to reach you (student)?: (____) _____
write "above" if the phone # you listed above is the only one

What is the best time of day to reach you by phone? _____

Birthdate: _____ Place of Birth: _____
city state

Have you been baptized? No Yes If yes, please list the following below:

Church: _____ City: _____ Date: _____

Do you attend Christ Church of Oak Brook: Yes *(see next question)* No

Please describe your level of involvement at Christ Church: _____

Do you attend worship services at Christ Church? Yes *(see next question)* No

Which worship service do you attend? 8:30am 10:00am Sanctuary 2HC 11:30am Other

How frequently do you attend? Weekly Twice a Month Once in a While Twice a Year

High School: _____ Grade this Fall: 9 10 11 12

Fall Sport and/or Extracurricular Activity? _____

Winter Sport and/or Extracurricular Activity? _____

Spring Sport and/or Extracurricular Activity? _____

Please list the names of (3) same gender students, here at Christ Church, with whom you (student) are closest:

1. _____ comment: _____

2. _____ comment: _____

3. _____ comment: _____



Section #2

Family Information *(to be completed by student and parent)*



Father: _____
first middle last

Address: _____ City: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Cell phone: (____) _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____ @ _____ *(please write clearly ☺)*

What is the best time to reach Dad by phone? _____

Does Dad attend Christ Church? Yes No Is Dad a member of Christ Church? Yes No

Mother: _____
first middle last

Address: _____ City: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Cell phone: (____) _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____ @ _____ *(please write clearly ☺)*

What is the best time to reach Mom by phone? _____

Does Mom attend Christ Church? Yes No Is Mom a member of Christ Church? Yes No

Marital Status: Married Separated Divorced

If separated / divorced, with whom does your son/daughter mostly live? _____

If separated/divorced, please provide us with the new address of: Father Mother *(check-one)*

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____ @ _____

Is there a custody or living arrangement information that would be helpful for us to know?

Yes No *(Please initial each response)*

As a student, I will attend and support all Confirmation events on the attached calendar, especially weekly Koinonia gatherings as listed.

As a parent, I will encourage my student as s/he attends and supports all Confirmation events on the attached calendar, especially weekly Koinonia gatherings.

Student Signature: _____ On: _____
name of student completing this registration today's date

Parent Signature: _____ On: _____
name of parent supporting this registration today's date

student section ends here - parent section continues on back page 

Section #3

Parent Information *(to be completed by parent)*



Does your son/daughter have any learning disabilities? No Yes *(if yes, please describe below:)*

Please describe any learning disabilities: _____

Does your son/daughter experience any AD/HD challenges? No Yes *(if yes, please describe below:)*

Please describe any AD/HD challenges: _____

Is your son/daughter experiencing any unusual levels of stress or particular difficulties in this season of his/her life? No Yes *(if yes, please comment below:)*

Is there any further information that might be helpful for us to consider as we place your son/daughter in a particular small group?

What are your personal expectations or hopes, as a parent, as your son/daughter enters this discipleship journey?

Parent Signature: _____ On: _____
name of parent supporting this registration *today's date*

