

## Mentors

The CnC program calls for each participating youth to have a mentor in the congregation – a non-family member who will talk with the participant about issues of faith, answer questions (when possible) or just ask them, attend class events and serve as a source of encouragement and support. This is an important part of the overall CnC program and, as a result, good mentor recruitment is essential. Students choose their mentors with the help of their parents and teachers, if necessary.

### Who?

While mentors should be adults, all ages are appropriate. Past experience at churches that have used CnC has shown that senior members of the congregation often make excellent mentors, but younger adults have also had success. The three critical qualities a mentor must possess are:

- **Curiosity.** A mentor should be willing to learn along with the class participant; be interested in their student's life and interests; be able to try new things – whether a teen's favorite food or a favorite band – and be more interested in having conversations than delivering lectures.
- **Reliability.** We all have busy lives, but there's not much worse than an adult flaking out and forgetting to meet with their student. Even adults who travel a lot for their work can be great mentors, as long as they make the effort to set up sessions with their students and show up for them.
- **Discretion.** For any real relationship to grow, a student must know that their mentor takes them seriously and respects their privacy. Mentors should demonstrate discretion in discussing their relationship with the student and what has been shared.

### What?

The three expectations of Mentors are:

- Get together with their student often enough to build a relationship.
- Be present for at least one of the iConfirm rehearsals and the iConfirm service itself, and the Confirmation service.
- Attend as many scheduled CnC events as is possible. Four class sessions include mentors, and it is important that they attend these sessions. In addition, their presence for special events can be quite meaningful.

### How?

Those asked to serve as mentors are often quite nervous about what they are expected to know or how they should spend time with their student. We are offering a Mentor Training event to review their responsibilities and answer their questions on Wednesday, November 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Colhoun B. Mentors will also be given a handbook that will describe their role and responsibilities; address common questions; and offer tips and advice for working with teenagers.

### When?

Mentors are asked to be present for four of the CnC classes (Nov 9, Jan 25, Feb 1 and Mar 22) as well as attending an iConfirm rehearsal (TBA) and the iConfirm service itself (Apr 25). In addition, mentors should meet privately with their student a few times and attend other class events when possible.

### Help!

Missie Vaughn is the Mentor Coordinator on our teaching team. She can answer questions about mentoring, and she will communicate with mentors to make sure they have information and materials they need. **Parents: Please make sure your youth's mentor is selected and Missie has their name and contact information by Sunday, October 26.** You can reach Missie at 724-4579 or missiesuev@aol.com.