

**Oak Ridge UMC Youth Ministries**  
**Confirmation Spring 2019**

**Mentor Guide for Mentor Meeting #1**

Hello! Thank you so very much for deciding to participate in this year's confirmation program. You've been asked by one of our confirmands to be their mentor and have graciously said "yes!" So, now what? The requirements are simple enough... meet twice/month with your confirmand 30min-1hr each time. But, what will you meet about, and what are we asking you to do during that time?

In short, we want you to **1) be yourself, 2) help the student process what they are learning, and 3) show your support through affirming words and committed presence.**

A confirmation mentor is not someone who has all the answers, or someone who can understand and relate perfectly to every teenager. (Neither of these exist!) Rather, a mentor's strength lies in their consistency, authenticity and genuine interest in the well-being of the student. Students see right through adults who try too hard to be what they think the students need... by **being yourself** you not only help both parties be comfortable, but you also model for the student that there is freedom in being authentic.

The mentor layer of this program does give us an added way to reinforce what the students are learning, but it is so much more than that. The time is aimed to help them **verbally process what they are learning** and for them to share how it is impacting them personally. So, more than an "additional reminder" of the same info from class, we hope this time will allow them to internalize the concepts on a different level.

We realize many of you may not yet be comfortable with drawing discussion out of a pre-teen/teen (and who could blame you), so the guide provided is meant to ease some of the barriers with lighthearted icebreakers, while guiding them toward thought and response through a few deeper questions. We absolutely encourage you to share your own experience or response, but also ask that you are sensitive to whether you are doing all the talking. Silence, though uncomfortable, is not always a bad thing! Aim to actively listen, affirm by using language such as "So what I hear you saying is ...," praise the positive (or at least recognize the positive they are getting at), and gently (and thoughtfully) redirect where they may be in error.

Your **words and your presence will both be incredibly affirming**, not only in this short confirmation journey, but as their faith journey plays in out in their lives. The fact that you were there and that you cared to encourage them will be a rock for them, even if they do not truly come to faith until some point later in life. When it finally "clicks" for them and they face a decision, they will always have this experience to lean on, and your love as evidence that the gospel is worth living for. (This is one reason we highly encourage you to be present, if possible, at worship on confirmation Sunday June 2!)

I'll be emailing out discussion questions regularly as we move forward. The first set for your first meeting are included here. As mentioned above we need you to be you, so use these as you are able or however you feel they will fit for your time. They are meant a guide and not as rigid checkpoints.

I'm praying for you and available should you have any questions, need advice or just want to discuss!!!

In His Peace,

Harrison

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# **Mentor-Confirmand Guide #1**

## **Icebreakers/Get to know (both share):**

1. What are some of your favorite hobbies or activities outside of school/work?
2. If money or time were no object, what is 1) one huge experience you'd have for yourself and 2) one huge way you'd help others?
3. In your own words, what do you feel is the purpose for this confirmation program? What do YOU hope to get out of it?

## **March 3-17 Session Discussion:**

1. What has learning about the history of the Christian Faith meant to you?
  - a. Does it change the way you thought of anything before? Is anything different than you imagined?
  - b. There were some bright spots and ugly spots along the way... do you see that in today's churches as well?
  - c. What can the Church (worldwide) do moving forward to better live the example of Jesus?
2. Was there any person in Christian history that stuck out to you? Why?
  - a. If you wanted to be known 500-1000 years from now for impacting the world in a certain way, what would it be?
3. Take a look at the creeds again. What words or phrases from either of these do you connect with most? Why?
  - a. These creeds are some of the oldest materials we have as Christians...What do you think is the importance of continuing to teach them?
4. What does it mean, to you, to be a part of the "United Methodist Church"?
  - a. What are some things that makes the UMC unique? Do you feel like these things are a good fit to how you approach faith?
  - b. Did anything stand out to you from the lessons on Wesley that you connected with?
  - c. (It's ok if confirmand is not quite sure of any of these yet, especially if they haven't had MARCH 17 Lesson on "Methodist History"... But maybe you as the mentor can provide your own thoughts!!!)
5. What is your first memory of this church (Oak Ridge UMC) ?
  - a. Were you raised in this church? Have you attended other churches?
  - b. How is Oak Ridge UMC different than others? How is it similar?

**Take prayer requests and close in prayer if comfortable and time allows!**

## **Apostles Creed - Ecumenical Version**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*\*"catholic" is another word for "universal"

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the  
Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the  
giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic\*\* and  
apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\*\*"catholic is another word for "universal"