



confirmation commissioning course

January 7, 2016

Dear Parents,

As a parent of a student 6th grade or older, we are asking you to pray for your child as they decide whether they are interested in participating in our Confirmation group this year. In our faith tradition, Confirmation is an important step for young people to personally choose and claim the faith their parents and community have been instilling in them. We call the process the Confirmation Commissioning Course, or C³.

Over the 14-week course, students will be required to meet as a group for weekly discussion, projects, activities, and more to dig deeper into the very heart of what Christianity really is. These meetings will be on a day and time that works for all participants. We will explore what each of us truly believes—not just what we are told we are *supposed* to believe. The course is not designed to overwork or burn your student out, but there will be assignments they'll have to complete between each group meeting. These tasks are designed to help them better understand how they might live out their faith in real life, and how to put into practice what they believe.

Each student will choose a member of the Greeneville Cumberland Presbyterian Church to serve as a mentor. This person will commit to praying for them, checking in with them, meeting with the group on occasion, and overall encouraging your student through the process. Your child will also be asked to attend church services at GCPC regularly during the course to provide a frame of reference of how the life of faith is shared in community.

At the completion of the course, your student will become an adult member of the Greeneville Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and baptism will be an option for those not already baptized. This will happen at a special ceremony during worship on Sunday, May 15.

We feel it is important that participation in the course is the decision of the student. Please help them talk through their thoughts about participating and encourage them to pray, asking God to help them make the decision. You can look over the website (www.gcpchurch.org/confirmation) for more detailed information. Finally, feel free to bring your questions and concerns to me as you discern together your student's participation. If they decide to join in, have them fill out the registration form they received and return it to the church office by Sunday, January 24, 2016.

Your friend,

Andy Blackwelder
Director of Youth & Children's Ministries