

## EPISCOPAL Curricular Resources for Preparing Candidates for Confirmation, Reaffirmation, or Reception

*Confirmation is a rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, **are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith**, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 860)*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

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**Confirm not Conform (CnC)** developed by St. John's Episcopal Church, Oakland CA (updated 1999)

This fully downloadable licensed program includes: Getting Started guides; 20 general sessions, including sessions on Scripture, church history, the Nicene Creed, the Lord's Prayer, worship, world religion, and social justice; Weekend Retreat handbook; Mentor recruitment and training materials; and Confirmation service and celebration materials. The program focuses more on questions youth have and shifts the role of adult leaders as companions and guides rather than instructors. <https://www.confirmnotconform.com>

**Faith Confirmed: Preparing for Confirmation** by Peter Jackson and Chris Wright (SPCK, 1999/Forward Movement, 2019)

Developed by the Church of England and adapted for the Episcopal Church and its context, this an introduction to Episcopal beliefs and practices. Each section of the book contains: a clear and accessible explanation of what Episcopalians believe, stories and illustrations to unpack these beliefs, thought-provoking questions and a Bible study, prayer and suggested prayer topics for the week. Nineteen "chapters" focus on God; human nature and sin; Jesus: life and ministry; Jesus: death and resurrection; The Holy Spirit; The Church; creeds; The Bible; living as a Christian; prayer and worship; sacraments; Baptism; Confirmation; Eucharist; marriage; confession; ordination; anointing the sick; life after death.

**My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church**, revised edition by Jenifer Gamber (Church Publishing, 2014)

An illustrated textbook of nine chapters covering the basics: Baptism and Confirmation (including the Baptismal Covenant), the Bible, church history, sacraments, worship, prayer, the Church, and ministry. Includes a glossary and questions to explore deeper. **A Leader's Guide** (separate) offers full lesson plans for a six-session program with weekend retreat or a ten-session program. Resources include handouts for duplication, games and icebreakers, interactive prayer experiences, and more.

**I Will, with God's Help** by Mary Lee Wile (Morehouse Publishing, 2000)

A traditional six- to twelve- week program of lesson plans built entirely on the Baptismal Covenant suitable for youth or adults. Resources include: *Leader's Guide*, *Youth Journal*, *Adult Journal* by Mary Lee Wile and a *Mentor's Guide* by Linda Nichols (2010)

## HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS

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### **Confirm not Conform (CnC) for Adults**

is a spiritual formation program based on the youth curriculum *Confirm not Conform*. It shares the youth program's emphasis on building an authentic faith, but with a focus on the spiritual and developmental needs of people in the middle of their life. The lesson plans cover the basics on Bible, creeds, prayers book, and sacraments, topics which may have been ignored or lost in the mists of time. Participants experiment with different spiritual practices to find what ones work best for them. And they also consider the important and often ignored topic of how they want to use the time remaining to them.

<https://www.confirmnotconform.com>

**Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer** by Rowan Williams (Eerdmans, 2014)

An explanation of the essentials of the Christian faith in four short chapters (Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer) by the former Archbishop of Canterbury with end of chapter questions for discussion. (*Note: this does not note the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the Baptismal Covenant, or other Episcopal elements such as church polity and governance.*)

**Living Water: Baptism as a Way of Life** by Klara Tammany (Church Publishing, 2002, 2020)

A program of study and process for small groups of eight sessions focusing on water, the symbol of baptism, as central to a life-long journey of faith. Filled with poetry, images, and quotes from scripture and writers, this text offers creative ways (musically, artistically, dramatically, etc.) for engaging with the Baptismal Covenant.

**The Pilgrim Program** (SPCK/Church Publishing, 2016)

Originally developed as an evangelism resource for the Church of England, this has been adapted for the Episcopal Church in polity, language, and context. Following the practice of the ancient disciplines of biblical reflection and prayer with quotes from the Christian tradition throughout the ages, *Pilgrim* assumes little or no knowledge of the Christian faith. Individuals or small groups on the journey of discipleship in the Episcopal tradition can use *Pilgrim* at any point. A *Leader's Guide* gives tips on leading adult formation. Eight modules (small books) with 6-7 sessions each cover: *Turning to Christ (Baptism)*, *The Lord's Prayer*, *The Ten Commandments*, *The Beatitudes*, *The Creeds*, *The Eucharist*, *The Bible*, and *Church & Kingdom*.

**Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices** by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe (Forward Movement, 2018)

Walk through the liturgical year, the sacraments of the church, habits of daily prayer, and the teachings of Anglican Christianity. See how our prayer shapes our belief and our lives and how our beliefs lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Reflection questions at the end of each of the 26 chapters could serve as a starting point for small group or independent study.

**What Episcopalians Believe: An Introduction** by Samuel Wells (Morehouse, 2011)

A brief, accessible summary of the Christian faith as seen through an Episcopal lens. The book includes four parts: The Faith—outlining notions of Trinity, Jesus, Israel, Holy Spirit, Church, Creation, Kingdom, and salvation; Sources of the Faith—Scripture, tradition and reason; The Order of the Faith—Worship, Ministry, Mission; The Character of the Faith—English legacies, American dreams, Global dimensions. Includes a Study Guide.

**Your Faith, Your Life** revised edition by Jenifer Gamber with Bill Lewellis (Church Publishing, 2017)

An everything-you-need-to-know guide to the Episcopal Church, providing adult readers with an understanding of worship, theology, church structure, and sacraments. A *Leader Guide* is included in this revised edition in addition to the “transformation questions” that follow each chapter.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR YOUTH & ADULT READING**

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**A People Called Episcopalians** by John Westerhoff with Sharon Ely Pearson (Church Publishing, 2014)

A short book that introduces the reader to all things Anglican: identity, authority, spirituality, temperament, and polity. Great for those new to the Episcopal Church from other denominations. (Adult)

**The Episcopal Handbook** revised edition (Morehouse, 2015)

Provides historical and theological information about the Episcopal Church alongside fun-filled facts and practical tips for being a churchgoing follower of Jesus Christ. (Youth / Adult)

**Faith Rules: An Episcopal Manual** by Ian S. Markham with Samantha R. E. Gottlich (Church Publishing, 2016)

Introduces both the Christian faith and The Episcopal Church to the seeker and Episcopal laity. Each page is Episcopal wisdom set in concise, straightforward language for anyone in the 21st century. (Adult)

**The Ultimate Quest: A Geek’s Guide to (The Episcopal) Church** by Jordan Haynie Ware (Morehouse, 2017)

This tongue-in-cheek introduction uses an “it’s geek to me” approach to translate Episcopal theological concepts and rich church traditions into geek language, accompanied by comics that help the reader maneuver through the oft-dense liturgical and theological workings of the Christian tradition. (Youth / Young Adult)

**Unabashedly Episcopalian: Proclaiming the Good News of The Episcopal Church** by Andrew Doyle (Morehouse, 2012)

A heartfelt, smart and practical book that calls Episcopalians to wake up to the church’s unique gifts and story, and equips them to share that witness in their neighborhoods and out in the world alongside the Baptismal Covenant. (Also available in Spanish.) (Adult)

**Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church** by Megan Castellan (Church Publishing, 2019)

Worship is explained, with a quick survey of the Book of Common Prayer, along with frequently encountered vocabulary. How we read the Bible and what we believe about core points of theology are also discussed, especially as these points may differ from what many people assume to be Christian norms. How faith is practiced and its connection to our social and moral lives is discussed. What is the Jesus Movement and how can the Way of Love be lived every day? Finally, a short overview of Episcopal history is included, for the those who wonder how we came to be here. (Adult)