

## Guidelines for Choosing Mentors

Consider a variety of adults across the life span in the congregation. When inviting adults to serve as mentors or sponsors, be clear about the expectations involved. Plan a get-together with all the mentors and Confirmands for some orientation. One way is to get together for a simple lunch after worship. Plan at least two or three gatherings during the year for mentors and youth together. Sometimes it helps adult mentors gather with one another. Participating in a group event or service project with the class is also advantageous for building relationships.

### *Characteristics desired:*

- An adult of mature faith – someone who can give evidence of fulfilling his or her baptismal promises
- An Episcopalian - This is not to say that members of other denominations are not Christian. It is to recognize that some of the sharing and witnessing that the mentors are asked to do come out of a particular tradition and theological understanding. There is a reason that we are Episcopalians, and this tries to support that reason.
- An active member of the congregation – faithful in attendance, stewardship, and ministry; one who can serve as a personal representative of the parish and is a sign of the community's commitment to the candidate. This will give the young person another adult outside of his/her/their family with whom he/she/they can identify in the parish. The young person's parish life will, therefore, be strengthened if the adult is a regular and visible participant in the life of the congregation.
- One who has a heart for engaging in conversation regarding faith issues

### *Responsibilities:*

- To meet with the Confirmand regularly. The purpose of these meetings is to share each other's faith stories and questions as well as discuss what is being covered in the confirmation sessions. The meetings do not have to be long but should be in a public area or with others nearby (following safe church guidelines). Meet over coffee at a local diner, bookstore, or fast food restaurant. Go to a movie with another confirmand and mentor. Please allow enough time for interaction.
- Attend church sponsored confirmand + mentor activities (luncheons, dinners, discussions, et. al.) and special confirmation sessions as scheduled.
- Attend worship services involving the confirmand: enrollment, Holy Week liturgies, visits to other houses of worship, and the actual confirmation service
- Hopefully, after Confirmation the newly confirmed and sponsor will maintain a relationship in years to come.