

## Walking Together: Mentors and Confirmands

Your role as a mentor includes sharing your own faith journey as you walk alongside and support your confirmand as they discern whether confirmation is right for them at this time. They will be spending the next *few months/year* preparing to renew their baptismal promises for themselves at the Rite of Confirmation.

Now that you have been chosen to be a mentor, it is time to spend a little more time with your confirmand to really get to know more about him/her. After all, your role as a mentor is to walk with and support your confirmand as you share your faith journeys together! You may find that you already have a lot in common, but there is always a lot that you can learn from each other.

Soon after the confirmation program has begun (*insert date*), please set up a time to meet with your confirmand to “interview” each other. It is best to meet in person in a public place such as the church, a diner or coffee shop; you could go for a walk together or have a meal in your home (be sure to invite another confirmand and mentor to join you per “safe church guidelines”). Each occasion you plan to meet with your confirmand it should be for at least one hour, but feel free to meet for as long as you would like over the course of the year leading up to (and beyond is nice also) the Rite of Confirmation.

Your gatherings should really be a time of building a relationship, going deeper each time you meet. While your purposes to get together should be fun, discussion about faith is the main goal. Allow your mentee to take the lead whenever possible, with you adding your own insights and thoughts to the conversation. At first you may have to be the initiator, but as time goes on and your relationship grows, they will feel comfortable and safe in opening up. Invite them to ask some questions!

The questions listed below are offered to guide your discussion. You do not need to get through all of the questions; pick and choose which ones feel right as you continue to learn more about each other, growing in faith together. Sometimes you may wish to ask a question from your own personal story before asking your mentee what their thoughts are. Sharing personal stories, experiences, and insights are ways that we can all grow in faith.

### ***25 Questions for Conversation***

#### *Beginnings . . .*

1. Were you baptized when you were a baby or when you were older? Where did it take place (church and town/city)? Do you remember any of it?
2. When did you first come to (*name of your church*)? What is your first memory of being here? What do you like best about (*name of your church*)?
3. Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to church? Do you like going to church now? What do you think caused the change?
4. How did you first learn about God? About Jesus? Was there anyone you remember helping you talk about God or Jesus?

5. Do you have a favorite Bible story or prayer?
6. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your church, school, work, or in your neighborhood?
7. What does “faith” mean to you?
8. Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?

*Going deeper . . .*

9. How would you describe God? What other words could you use to call God?
10. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.
11. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God? Tell me about it and how you kept your faith in the end.
12. How do you define the word “holy”? Do you know people in your life that you would describe as “holy”? Do you think anyone describes you as “holy”? How does that make you feel?
13. What do you know about Jesus? Who do you think he was? What questions about him do you have? If you could ask him one question, what would it be?
14. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, who do you usually pray to: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, or something else? Who or what do you usually pray for?
15. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse, or story? Tell me why.

*And even deeper . . .*

16. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind?  
When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
17. What do you think a life of holiness is? What challenge/s do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
18. What is your understanding of what it means “to sin”? What does “forgiveness” mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
19. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be a Christian - perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith or a time when you struggled to believe what you read in the Bible. What did you do to “keep your faith” or find answers to your questions during these times?
20. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist every week strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Christian?
21. Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.
22. Who do you turn to or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?
23. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your faith?
24. What gifts and talents do you have? Reflect back on your life experiences and decisions, which gifts have you used a lot? Which gift do you need to use more?
25. What do you think is one of the greatest challenges of being a Christian? What is the best thing about being an Episcopalian?