

friendswood united methodist church

Student Confirmation

Registration Packet 2011-2012

To register your child for confirmation:

1. Read through entire packet with your child.
2. Contact the Student Ministry office if you have any questions.
3. Fill out the Registration Form & the Confirmation Covenant.
4. Fill out the Information/Medical Liability & Release form.
 - a. This form must be notarized--several staff members can perform this during normal business hours.
 - b. A notary will be available, Sunday, August 21st in the gym from 9:45 am til noon.
5. Return all forms to the student ministry office.
6. Attend the Orientation Class on Sunday, September 11th at 4:00 pm with your child.

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CONFIRMATION: According to official United Methodist documents, confirmation is the process that uses “the services of the Baptismal Covenant, youth will profess their faith, commit themselves to a life of discipleship, and be confirmed. Confirmation is both a human act of commitment and the gracious action of the Holy Spirit strengthening and empowering discipleship.” (216.1.a) ***In other words, confirmation is the year-long program for students (who have completed the 5th grade) that prepares them to publically confess their faith in Christ, and become full members the United Methodist church and of our congregation.*** Confirmation is not simply a “rite of passage” or another class to complete. It is one step in the life-long journey that is being a follower of Christ. This step includes building relationships, deepening our understanding of God and the church, pursuing our general and individual call to ministry, and experiencing to a greater degree the love that God has poured out on us.

PARTICIPANTS: Friendswood United Methodist Church generally confirms youth at the end of their 6th grade year, following a year of participation in our Student Confirmation program. We do know that not all students who come to Friendswood United Methodist Church have gone through confirmation at other churches, and sometimes the 6th grade year just isn't right for every family. If you have a question or concern regarding a child who isn't in 6th grade, please contact the Director of Student Ministries. We would love to talk with you about options that are available to your family.

TIME COMMITMENT: Confirmation runs from September through May. Our “classes” run from 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Sundays. We also schedule retreats in the fall and spring, as well as a few church visits, and mission days. In addition, families are asked to regularly attend Sunday school and worship. Because of the seriousness of the important decision they will be making on Confirmation Sunday, ***students are expected to make a commitment to attend lessons, retreats, field trips, worship services, Sunday School and service projects.***

PARENT INVOLVEMENT: First and foremost, we need help from parents in making this a priority for your family. Each of the events we ask students to participate in is designed to help students 1) RE-late to each another and God, 2) RE-spond to God's call on their life, and 3) RE-main connected to God through involvement in His Holy church. If you make this a priority, and model it for your child, the impact on his or her life will be much greater. In addition, parents are asked to consider volunteering. Please see the Confirmation Volunteer Form.

COST: We have combined the entire year of programming into one flat-fee of \$180.00 per child. With this money, we purchase all of the program materials, an NIV teen study Bible for each child, the class T-Shirt, retreats, and are able to cover other expenses during the year. You may pay this amount in full at registration or in installments. This is a flat fee, and there are no refunds for missed events, as we expect everyone to attend all events. At Friendswood UMC, we never want money to be a reason for youth not participating. Therefore, scholarships are available upon request.

FRIENDS: Students are always welcome, and encouraged, to bring friends to any and all Relevant Student Ministry programs. This particular program, however, is focused on students making a confession of faith and joining the church at its completion. We ask that only students whose families are members, or potential members, of Friendswood UMC take part in a “full-time” basis and attend the retreats.

THE PROGRAM: Our program consists of weekly gatherings, regular attendance at Sunday school and worship, mission trips, weekend retreats, and new worship experiences. Time is spent in both large and small group settings. Teaching on Sunday evening takes place in a large group, before we transition to Small Groups. There is an adult leader with each group, and sometimes a high school helper. These small groups become close, as they share experiences together throughout the year. Like all things, we are more likely to participate when we have a friend with us. One of our main objectives is to foster relationships that will last throughout their school years.

There are several overnight experiences during the year. The first retreat helps to solidify relationships within the small group. Attendance at this retreat is crucial to your child's confirmation experience. This is an opportunity to really get to know one another, and their small group leaders in a relaxing setting outside of church. Our spring retreat is a bit more serious, as we focus on what we have learned, experienced, and talk about how we will each choose to individually respond.

CURRICULUM: Throughout the year, we look at the basics of Christian faith. We will discuss the importance of scripture, major creeds and Christian beliefs, the history of the church (universal) and the United Methodist church, in particular. We also will have several opportunities to experience worship in different settings. Generally, we visit a Jewish synagogue and a gospel style church, to help the students to appreciate other forms of worship and better understand their own. The retreats include our most intense curriculum of the whole year. It is a time for in-depth discussions and bonding, which cannot occur in 1-1/2 hours on Sunday afternoons. This time is mostly designed to deepen their personal relationship with Christ.

WHY CONFIRMATION ISN'T JUST AN 8 WEEK CLASS: We believe that following Jesus Christ takes more than one hour on Sunday morning. We have seen over and over that *students, and families, who participate in worship, study, fellowship, and mission on a weekly basis, experience more of what God has to offer.* The reason we offer so much is that we believe God has called us to participate in each of these aspects of the Christian life regularly. Involvement in Student Confirmation is voluntary. No child has to go through Student Confirmation. Your family could skip Student Confirmation, and then your child could join the church later. What we offer, however, is done so with the conviction that your child is the ultimate beneficiary. *Students at the completion of this process will be ready to respond to God's call, because they will know what it means to live a Christian life and place their trust in Jesus.*

BAPTISM: Your child may or may not be baptized, and that is okay. The Service of Confirmation will include Baptism for those who have not yet been baptized. If your child has been baptized (in any Christian church or Christian tradition) we affirm and accept this baptism.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: Student Confirmation wraps up each year in the spring, on Confirmation Sunday, generally held several Sundays following Easter. Each Confirmand will kneel, and with the hands of the pastor placed on them they will be confirmed and welcomed into the active community of the church. They will answer in unison, questions which all Confirmands in the Methodist church are asked. This is a wonderful day in the life of our church that is shared with friends and relatives.

CELEBRATION DINNER and REHEARSAL: There will be a dinner to celebrate with our Confirmands and their families on the Sunday before Confirmation Sunday. Immediately following the rehearsal you and your family are invited to a celebration dinner.

COMMUNICATION: In addition to mass-communication outlets like the weekly church bulletin and the weekly e-Messenger, we also communicate with students and families by e-mail, phone, facebook, and snail mail to remind you of important events. We will do our best to insure that you know what is going on at all times.

QUESTIONS: Contact our Director of Student Ministries, Drew Swanson, at 281.482.7535, x108 or drew@friendswoodumc.com

Updated 8/8/2011

Student Confirmation 2011 – 2012 Schedule

Important Dates To Write Down:

September 11	Orientation for Parents & Students	4 – 5 pm
Sept 19 – Nov 27	Confirmation Large & Small Group	4 – 6 pm
October 1	Mission Experience-Christian Alliance	afternoon
November 11-12	Galveston Retreat-Galveston Urban Ministry	
December 3	Progressive Dinner & Polar Bear Swim	4 – 8 pm
December 10	Mission Experience	
Jan 8 – April 22	Confirmation Large & Small Group	4 - 6 pm
April 13-15	Spring retreat	
April 17	Last Confirmation Class	
April 29	Celebration Dinner and Rehearsal	4 – 6 ³⁰ pm
May 6	Confirmation Sunday	11:05 am

We will not meet for class on the following dates:

November 20	Fall Break
December 4 – January 1	Winter Break
March 11	Spring Break
April 8 & 15	Easter & Spring Retreat

Alternative Worship Experiences:

We will schedule two alternative worship experiences, one in the fall and one in the spring, as part of our Student Confirmation program. Students will be asked to attend two worship services outside of Friendswood UMC, and journal their experiences.

Christian Mission Experiences:

We will schedule at least four mission experiences, two in the fall and two in the spring, as part of our Student Confirmation program. Students will be asked to attend and journal about two mission experiences that they join in. A list of ongoing mission opportunities will also be available. In the event that they are unable to attend the scheduled mission experiences, it is up to the families to make arrangements to fulfill this commitment.

A Word about Orientation:

You and your child will need to attend an Orientation meeting Sunday, September 11th, at 4:00 pm in Wesley Hall. In addition to being the first “class,” you will get a feel for how things will work during the year. If you are unable to attend the Orientation please contact Drew Swanson, Director of Student Ministries.

***Other dates will be added as we go, and should be available by the
September 11th Orientation Meeting.***

Confirmation Covenant

Student Agreement

Student Confirmation is an opportunity to publically profess your faith in Jesus Christ, and become professing members of the church. This is done through a variety of events that help students 1) RE-late to each another and God, 2) RE-spond to God's call on their life, and 3) RE-main connected to God through involvement in His Holy church. Therefore:

- I commit myself to growing and maturing as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- I am willing to learn new ways to give and receive Christ's love as we travel together as a confirmation community.
- I will attend all sessions. If I am unable to attend a session, I will let a leader know as soon as possible and I will make every effort to be familiar with the material I missed.
- I will regularly attend Sunday School and a Worship Service.
- I understand that as I honor my Confirmation Covenant, I will grow and develop as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Agreement

I will support, encourage, and guide my child during the confirmation process. As a visible sign of my support, we will regularly attend Sunday school and worship. In addition, we will make every effort to structure family schedules so that Student Confirmation is a priority. Understanding that, in general, children find important the things that their parents find important, we will make every effort to model Christ's importance in our life as well.

Signature

Signature

Date

***Please return the white copy, signed, to the Student Ministry Office.
Keep the pink copy for your records.***

Student Confirmation Registration

Full Legal Name

of Student: _____ Birth: _____
First Middle Last Month/Day/Year

Preferred Name: _____ Grade: _ School: _____

Male or Female (circle) Adult t-shirt size: small/medium/large/x-large (circle one)

Has your child been baptized? ___ Yes ___ No Baptism Date: _____

Are you a member of FUMC? ___ Yes ___ No Family Denominational Background: _____

Which worship service do you normally attend? 8:30 9:45 11:05 11:05-Hispanic service (circle one)

Which Sunday School hour do you normally attend? 8:30 9:45 11:05 11:05-Hispanic service (circle one)

What other church groups is student in? choir bells orchestra other: _____

What other church groups is your family in? _____

What extra-curricular activities is student in? scouts sports band choir other: _____

Student e-mail: _____ Facebook: ___ Yes ___ No

Student cell phone: _____ Allowed to send/receive texts? ___ Yes ___ No

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Employer/Job: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian e-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Facebook: ___ Yes ___ No * Please circle preferred phone number

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Employer/Job: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian e-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Facebook: ___ Yes ___ No * Please circle preferred phone number

We are able to help in the following areas:

- Teacher Small Group Leader Snacks Phone Caller
 Greeter Event Driver Office/Administrative Help Communications

For Office Use Only

Confirmation Cost \$180 Payment 1 _____ Payment 2 _____ Final Pay. _____
CASH/CK# _____ CASH/CK# _____ CASH/CK# _____

Scholarship info: Please contact the Student Ministries office (281-482-7535 ext. 122) for details.

FRIENDSWOOD UMC STUDENT MINISTRY
PERSONAL INFORMATION AND MEDICAL / LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

PLEASE PRINT! ALL INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED!

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

PRESENT GRADE _____ BIRTH DATE ____/____/____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF FRIENDSWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH? () YES () NO

CONTACT INFO

EMERGENCY CONTACT (If Parents unavailable) _____

PHONE NUMBER (____) _____

RELATIONSHIP _____

MOTHER'S NAME _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____

EMPLOYER _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____

FATHER'S NAME _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____

EMPLOYER _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____

PARENTS' E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DOES YOUR STUDENT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE ? YES _____ NO _____

INSURANCE COMPANY _____

POLICY/GROUP NUMBER _____ PHONE NUMBER (____) _____

HEALTH HISTORY

ASTHMA _____ FAINTING _____ CONVULSIONS _____ DIABETES _____

OTHER _____

HEART TROUBLES _____ (IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN) _____

ALLERGIES _____ (IF SO, PLEASE LIST) _____

IMMUNIZATION DATES: (If up to date for school, just check \checkmark by each)

TETANUS TOXOID _____ GERMAN MEASLES _____ MEASLES _____

POLIO _____ DITHTHERIA _____ MUMPS _____

OTHER MEDICAL INFO OR COMMENTS (If need more room attach another sheet):

Please complete other side \Rightarrow



*****PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE STUDENTS MEDICAL INSURANCE CARD (both sides).****

By my signature, I _____ the parent/guardian of
(please print Parent's name)
_____ grant my permission for him/her to participate fully in the
(please print Student's name)
Friendswood United Methodist Church activities between August, 2011 and December,
_____. I understand that my signature carries with it the following:
(please use date of student's high school graduation year)

1. An authorization of any of the adult leaders to obtain any medical attention and/or treatment for my son/daughter that may be needed.
2. I hereby release and forever discharge Friendswood United Methodist Church, its agents, servants, or employees from any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury or property damage that I may have or my child (children) may have or that may subsequently accrue to me or my child (children) as a result of my child's participation in the group activity described as **FRIENDSWOOD UMC STUDENT MINISTRY ACTIVITIES** on the date(s) set forth above.
3. Further, we agree to indemnify and hold harmless Friendswood United Methodist Church, its agents, servants, and employees from any claims, actions, and causes of action, which may hereafter be asserted by me and/or on behalf of my child (children) as a result of my child's (children's) participation in the Friendswood United Methodist Church activity referred to above, including any claim alleging negligence, sole negligence or gross negligence on the part of Friendswood United Methodist Church, its agents, servants, and employees. We hereby expressly warrant and agree to defend Friendswood United Methodist Church, its agents, servants and employees and to pay all attorney fees, court costs and litigation expenses of Friendswood United Methodist Church related to the defense of such matter.

Pictures taken at events and performances may be used in Friendswood UMC publications.

******MUST BE SIGNED IN FRONT OF A NOTARY******

I have listed above any and all special medical problems concerning my son/daughter and have taken the opportunity to discuss these problems with one or more of the adult leaders working with my child.

*Signature _____ Date _____

.....Do not write below this line – For Notary only.....

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared, _____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed above, and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same for the purpose therein expressed.

Sworn and authorized before me this _____ day of _____, 2011

Notary Public in and for _____
County, Texas. STATE OF TEXAS