

## Resources for Confirmation

### Favorite Resources

- ✘ *I will, with God's help*, by Mary Lee Wile [Morehouse Publishing]
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| Leader's Guide, | \$ 19.95 |
| Adult journal,  | \$ 5.95  |
| Youth journal,  | \$ 5.95  |

An experiential curriculum based around the creed and the five promises made at confirmation. The material is divided into six "sessions" but each session contains enough material for several hours and can be used in a traditional six to twelve week course, including the possibility of a retreat. There is a strong focus on Episcopal liturgy and prayer as well as Episcopal heritage and belief, and individual work is expected in preparation for the next session. It is strongly recommended that each participant have their own journal.

- ✘ *Living Water*, by Klara Tammany [Church Publishing] \$24.00.

"Starts with the premise that ongoing Christian education must be central to a life of faith, and then proceeds from the corollary that baptism must be central to all Christian education."

This book is divided into eight sessions around baptism and the baptismal promises with plenty of extra material on how best to use the sessions. Loaded with resources, *Living Water* can be used in preparation for baptism, confirmation/reception, or reaffirmation of faith (although it is "not intended as a complete program of preparation for confirmation/reception). Though written initially for adults, with some adaptation the sessions can be used in an intergenerational setting, or with children and/or youth. The emphasis is on spiritual formation rather than academic knowledge.

- ✘ *My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church*, by Jenifer Gamber [Morehouse Publishing] \$12.95.

This new resource represents a great change in confirmation materials - it is actually written for teenagers. "Unique in its pedagogical approach and design, this book offers mentors, parents, youth leaders, and confirmation instructors an alternative that provides a missionary impetus for sharing the history, tradition and reason (of our Episcopal identity) with our teens." There is a website with this book: [www.myfaithmylife.org](http://www.myfaithmylife.org) which contains helps for leaders as well as pages for youth and parents with a special focus on spiritual practices.

- ✘ *7 Things Christians Believe*, and *7 Things Christians Do*, a part of the *FAITH IN MOTION Series*, [Abingdon Press]

Teacher's Manual	\$ 12.00
Pupil's Workbook	\$ 5.00

The *FAITH IN MOTION* series, for grades 6-8, has an easy-to-use layout for ease of planning and teaching, clear life application message, and fun youth activities. The *Leader Guide* includes step-by-step plans for seven sessions, plus a retreat model, a worship service, and a field trip or service project. *7 Things Christians Believe* focuses on a faith issue, while *7 things Christians Do* focuses on life issues. The highly graphic, slim *Student Book* provides youth with helpful information about the topic, questions related to the session and their lives,

practical help for next steps, a key Scripture or important quotation, and a challenge for the week. This is a Methodist publishing house, and there are some quotes in the student journal from the Methodist Book of Worship, but can still work very well within Episcopal parishes.

For *7 Things Christians Do*, the Sessions include: Do I have to go to Church?, How do I pray without ceasing?, Do you have God's E-mail address?, What is my personal responsibility?, Can God really use my money, time, and talents?, Do I have to share my faith?, How will I know what God is calling me to do?

For *7 Things Christians Believe*, Sessions include: God, Good News, Bible, Jesus Christ, Church, Living this life, and Eternal Life.

✘ ***Words for the Journey: Letters to Our Teenagers about Life and Death***, by Martin B. Copenhaver and Anthony Robinson [Pilgrim Press] \$ 16.00

In clear, short chapters written as letters to their teenage children, these two authors (both UCC ministers) cover a variety of topics with sensitivity, humor, and vivid life stories. This makes a great supplement to confirmation material, or a good gift for teenage confirmands, and great reading for parents of teenagers.

## Other Resources

✘ ***Keeping the Promise: A Mentoring Program for Confirmation in the Episcopal Church***, by Andrew Parker [Morehouse Publishing]

Mentor's Edition \$ 10.95

Confirmand's Edition \$ 9.50

This confirmation program, targeted for teenagers, uses adult mentors to guide and support Confirmand's through a basic knowledge of the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, the sacraments, the Episcopal Church, and Christian spirituality. This three-month program consists of nine weekly discussion sessions, plus five additional, recommended meetings: a Healing Service, a vestry meeting, work in a soup kitchen, a private meeting with a clergy person, and the Vigil on the Eve of Confirmation.

✘ ***Grow in Grace: a Confirmation Workbook***, by George Foxworth [Morehouse Publishing]

Teacher's Manual \$ 6.95

Pupil's Workbook \$ 5.95

Sponsor's Guide \$ 3.95

This ten session curriculum is based on both large group experiences and individual times with mentors, as well as requiring individual study away from the sessions. Geared towards junior high, this curriculum is based on the format of the catechism in the BCP and covers basic information in a traditional lecture/discussion format. Some extra creative teaching experiences are outlined with suggestions for audio-visual resources, though many of the resources are out-dated.

✘ ***Encountering Christ***, by Charlotte Molrine and Ronald Molrine [Morehouse Publishing], \$24.95

An "Intergenerational Faith Experience" in fourteen active and experiential sessions including group activities, simulations, values and self-esteem exercises, audio-visual presentations, and reflection periods leading participants through an experience of faith formation. Originally intended to be used with families, this is not

specifically a confirmation course but could be adapted to be used in that context. Reproducible handouts are a part of the book.

- ✘ ***Making Disciples***, by William Willimon [Logos Productions]
  - Confirmand Journal \$ 9.95
  - Mentor Guide \$ 10.95
  - Coordinator Guide \$ 11.95
  - Mentor Support Video \$ 21.95

This 12 session program is based on the idea that each confirmand is placed with an adult mentor from the congregation. Mentors meet individually with their confirmand every 2 weeks while the coordinator of the program supports the process. A video helps in training and supporting the mentors for each session. The emphasis is on relationships and growing committed adult Christians. Though not specifically Episcopal, this curriculum covers basic Christianity.

- ✘ ***Questions on the Way: a Catechism based on the Book of Common Prayer***, by Beverley Tucker and William Swatos, Jr. [Forward Movement] \$ 5.00.

This small book uses the same format as the catechism found in the BCP, but goes into greater depth. It includes an *Outline of the Life of Christ*, a *Church History Chart*, and a *Chronology of the Bible*.

- ✘ ***The New Episcopal Way***, by Carl Carozzi [Morehouse Publishing]
  - Master Book \$12.95
  - Student's Workbook \$ 9.95

This traditional approach to teaching is in a lecture/question/discussion format with emphasis on learning and/or memorization of Episcopal history, tradition, and theology. The student book, intended for youth, is in a bare fill-in-the-blank format with answers given in the Master Book. There are some teaching outlines and suggestions in the Master book, but the emphasis is on the teacher being prepared to lecture on the topic. It is suggested that a quiz or test be given at the end of the course. There is a very good appendix with "The Complete Prayer Book Subject and Topic Index."

<b>Adult Resources:</b>
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- ✘ ***Looking at the Episcopal Church***, by William Sydnor [Morehouse Publishing] \$11.95

A simple yet comprehensive look at the Episcopal Church, faith and practice, particularly suited for those beginning to discover the Episcopal Church. A leader's guide in the appendix assists in conducting confirmation instruction. Also covered are the church's symbols, customs, practices, its history, creeds, sacraments, and mission.

- ✘ ***An Introduction to the Episcopal Church***, by J. B. Bernardin [Morehouse Publishing] \$11.95.

This classic resource offers an overview of the Episcopal Church's history and lore, insight into its government, Bible and Prayer Book, moral law, doctrine, sacraments, and requirements. The book includes an appendix on preparation for confirmation but no outline for teaching.

- ✘ ***Welcome to the Episcopal Church: An Introduction to Its History, Faith, and Worship***, by Christopher Webber [Morehouse Publishing] \$ 11.95.

Written in accessible language and in a conversational tone, this introduction to the Episcopal Church is geared more towards adults and newcomers to the church. Topics include history, worship, beliefs, spiritual life, organization of the church, mission and outreach, and the way we read and understand the Bible. Study questions accompany each chapter.

- ✘ ***A People called Episcopalians: a Brief Introduction to Our Peculiar Way of Life***, by The Rev. Dr. John Westerhoff [Morehouse Publishing] \$ 4.95.

This small booklet includes pictures and is divided into the following categories: Anglican identity, Anglican authority, Anglican spirituality, Anglican temperament, and Anglican Polity. Though not particularly for confirmation, this easy to read booklet covers a wide variety of church information in an interesting and easy to read.

**ALL RESOURCES available through Cathedral Crossing Books & Resources 617/423-4719**

<b>Other Resources - available to check out from Cathedral Crossing Resource Center</b>
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***Models of Confirmation and Baptismal Affirmation***, by Robert Browning and Roy Reed, [Religious Education Press] \$ 24.95.

This ecumenical book examines major attitudes and theological underpinnings of confirmation in the church, the challenges and strengths of different denominational models, and explores both the educational and liturgical elements that surround confirmation and baptismal affirmation.

***The Story of the Episcopal Church: a Video Companion to the Catechism*** [Cathedral Films and Video, available through Episcopal Media Center] VHS format, \$29.95 each.

Narrated by David Morse, this video series in two parts has study guides for each section.

- Part 1: From Jamestown to Revolution
- Part 2: The Call to Mission

***The Story of Anglicanism: a Video Companion to the Catechism*** [Cathedral Films and Video, available through Episcopal Media Center] VHS format, \$29.95 each.

Narrated by Michael York, this video series in three parts has study guides for each section.

- Part 1: Ancient & Medieval Foundations
- Part 2: Reformation & Its Consequences
- Part 3: Creating a Global Family