

# Confirmation

EMMANUEL  
GRACE  
ST. FRANCIS  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCHES

Dear Teens and Parents,

We will be starting our Teen Confirmation process on Sunday the 8th of May 2016, and we would like to invite you to be part of this experience.

Over the years we have developed a great confirmation process – it covers a review of the traditional creeds, core-doctrinal truths, life-application and ethical issues. It allows space for teens to ask all the questions they would like to ask and the response over the years is that our young people have found this process very very meaningful.

## WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

It is a moment of **public** confession of faith in the church community, where young Christians confirm that they have made a decision to follow Jesus as the Lord of their lives. Confirmation in the Presbyterian church is a culmination of the process that often starts with infant Baptism. The baby is now a teen who is able to confirm the vows taken by their parents on their behalf when they were an infant. Those who were not baptised as infants are in no way excluded: God has brought them, too, on a journey to a place where they can confirm their faith, and so the teen Confirmation Service usually includes a few baptisms as well.

In order to prepare our young people for this big step, we run a confirmation course leading up to the worship service where the Confirmation ceremony will take place.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Our teen Confirmation course this year is for those turning 16 years of age or older in 2016. It is not only for members of our congregations. Anyone who is willing to commit to the process is very welcome. (Being confirmed opens the door to full membership in the Church.)

## WHEN WILL THE CLASSES TAKE PLACE?

The Confirmation classes will take place during the usual Sunday Morning Service. Adults, children and teens all start the worship service together and after the children's address, children and teens head off to their respective classes and this is where the bulk of the confirmation curriculum is taught.

There will also be two or three Sunday afternoon classes at the end of the course, and a sleep-over at the church in September. (Please see the back page for details and dates)

We understand that time is a precious commodity and so we have tried to make the course as “user-friendly” as possible as far as time and mom&dad's taxi goes.

### WHAT CONTENT WILL BE COVERED?

This year our course will be based on the “Christianity Explored” Course developed in the UK and used widely over the world as a foundational exploration of the Christian faith.



### WHAT COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED?

We all know that our vows to follow Jesus are a precious, serious and deeply personal commitment. At the end of the course, each young person will be interviewed (not examined<sup>1</sup>). At the interview they will be able to evaluate the course and will be given the opportunity to decide if confirmation is a step they are ready to take.

For those who wish to take part in the confirmation service at the end of the course, an 80% attendance is required, and the afternoon sessions and sleepover weekend will be **compulsory**. This means that each young person may miss a maximum of 3 classes. (The two long weekends will not count as compulsory classes but unless you are away for the weekend we ask our teens to attend for continuity's sake.)

Please note that we have given these dates far in advance. Remember that the Sunday afternoon sessions and confirmation camp/sleepover are compulsory. Please communicate these clearly to school teachers, coaches and choir directors – we cannot accommodate last minute pleas around matches, choir-camps, etc. Confirmation is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we believe that making it a very high priority is character building for our teens.

### HOW DOES THE 3 CONGREGATION THING WORK?

There are three congregations sharing this process: Emmanuel and Grace Presbyterian share the same building in 818 Plaston St, Faerie Glen.

St Francis is on the corner of Club Ave and Dely Ave in Waterkloof.

<sup>1</sup> It needs also to be said that the ministers and teachers involved in the process will make the final recommendation as to readiness for confirmation and it occasionally happens that we recommend that a young person waits a year before being confirmed. So starting the course does not necessarily end in confirmation.

- The Sunday morning lessons will take place during the respective worship services of the three congregations.  
Service Starting times are:  
Emmanuel 8h30, St Francis 9h00 and Grace 10h30.
- The August-September Sunday afternoon will be joint sessions and will alternate between Emmanuel/Grace and St Francis as venues.
- The Confirmation Sleepover will take place at Emmanuel Church.
- Closer to the time we will negotiate whether the confirmation is a combined evening service where all three groups are present or whether separate services are held.

### **WHO'S INVOLVED? WHO DO WE CONTACT?**

The Rev Theo Groeneveld is the minister of Emmanuel and Grace congregation and Interim Moderator at St Francis. He will be assisted by Rev Jackie Barker (currently on maternity leave), Rev Glynis Goyns (part-time minister at St Francis), Mr Craig Smith (who co-ordinates the sleep-over), Mr Gavin West (who has helped develop the teaching material) and experienced teams of teen teachers at each congregation. The Sunday morning sessions are done by the teen teachers. The ministers along with Craig Smith handle the Sunday afternoon sessions and teaching at the sleepover.

You can contact Theo on 082-5510752 or [groeneveld.theo@gmail.com](mailto:groeneveld.theo@gmail.com)

The co-ordinators at each congregation are:

Emmanuel & Grace: Brenda Groeneveld – 084-5427251

St Francis: Mercy Mpofu – 0823260528

### **HOW DO I ENROLL?**

Please inform the contact people mentioned above of your (or your child's) intention to enroll. There will be a meeting for parents and confirmees at Emmanuel and Grace at 10h00 on Sunday 8 May. (Bear in mind that the first lesson is on this same Sunday) The St Francis meeting will take place on the same Sunday but at St Francis, immediately after the morning service.

### **IN CONCLUSION.**

Confirmation is an important time in our lives. We believe it is a process worth committing to and that it can be a very meaningful journey. We hope you will be joining us!

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

8 May	Mothers Day	1. CY it's worth exploring
15 May		2. CY Jesus matters
22 May		3. CY Jesus came
29 May		4. CY Jesus died
5 June		5. CY Jesus lives
12 June		6. CY God accepts us
19 June	Fathers Day, <b><u>Long Wkend</u></b>	7. CY it's tough to follow Jesus
<b>School Holidays .... THIRD TERM 2014</b>		
24 July		8. CY we need the Holy Spirit
31 July		9. CY the church is your family
7 August	Pvt School hols, <b><u>Long Wkend</u></b>	10. CY it's good to talk
14 August	Pvt School hols	11. CY we should believe
21 August	Pvt School hols	12. Lesson 12
28 August	Pvt School hols	13. Lesson 13 <b>Afternoon Session 1 15:00-18:00</b>
4 Sep		14. Lesson 14 <b>Afternoon Session 2 15:00-18:00</b>
Fri 9 _ Sat 10	<b>Confirmation Sleepover</b>	Fri 18h30 to Sat 16h00 At 16h00 we will have a brief meeting with teens and parents to make arrangements for the service. Supper, Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.
Sun 11		<b>Possible Afternoon Session 3 if there are still questions.</b>
Sun 18		Confirmation Service