



2012

Providence Presbytery
Confirmation Cluster

Participating Church
Packet



Presbyterian Church (USA)

T. Mark Verdery
General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
markverdery@providencepres.org

Kathryn McGregor
Associate Presbyter for
Education and Resourcing
kmcgregor@providencepres.org

Dot Killian
Associate Presbyter for
Congregational Development
and Mission
dot@providencepres.org

Keith Newman
Associate Presbyter for
Camp and Conference Ministry
keith@bethelwoods.org

Fred Powell
Consultant for Mission
phledd@truvista.net

Rose Lemmons-Berry
Business Administrator
lemmonsberry@providencepres.org

Inez Glasgow
Administrative Assistant
iglasgow@providencepres.org

Jill Wilson
Communications Coordinator
jill@providencepres.org



515 Oakland Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Phone: 803-328-6269
Toll Free: 800-922-1609
Fax: 803-328-8701

www.providencepres.org

August 29, 2011

Dear Pastor:

We are so excited to be planning Providence Presbytery's second annual Confirmation Cluster. Last year, sixteen youth from four churches found it an enriching and faith-building experience. Enclosed please find a packet of information that I hope will answer any questions that you, your session, your youth, and/or their parents may have about the program.

We are looking for youth currently in 8th grade but will consider those older who have not yet completed a confirmation process at their own churches.

Applications for participation in the cluster and a \$50 deposit per youth are due by **November 1**. The balance of \$150 per youth plus \$100 per adult chaperone for the retreats will be due January 15.

Participating churches are asked to have a church representative serve on the cluster planning team. This can be the pastor or an elder from your church. *There will be a planning meeting for all participating churches on Thursday evening, November 10 at 7:00 pm at the presbytery office.* Church representatives are asked to attend.

Your youth participants will need to select Covenant Partners from your congregation. These partners will journey with your youth through this process and help the youth connect what they discuss in the large group meetings back to mission and ministry in your local congregation. You may want to require that these Covenant Partners be Elders and you may want the Session to approve these selections.

Please note that Covenant Partners will be expected to attend a portion of each retreat, specifically, **Saturday, January 21** from lunch through group building only (12:00 – 5:00 pm) and **Saturday, May 5** (12:30 – 4:00 pm) from lunch through afternoon activity only. Covenant Partners are not required to attend the other large group meetings, but are welcome to attend if they so choose. Covenant Partners are asked to meet with their youth participant twice between each large group meeting. Covenant Partners will receive a manual with ideas and activities to do with their youth partner during those meetings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Confirmation Cluster. We look forward to walking with your youth through this journey.

Sincerely,

Kathryn McGregor
Associate for Education & Resourcing

2012 Schedule of Large Group Meetings

Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center, York, SC

Retreat 1: January 20 – 22 (6:00 pm Friday – 10:30 am Sunday)

Meeting 2: February 12 (3:00 – 5:00 pm)

Meeting 3: March 18 (3:00 – 5:00 pm)

Meeting 4: April 15 (3:00 – 5:00 pm)

Retreat 2: May 4 – 6 (6:00 pm Friday – 10:30 am Sunday)

Age Requirements

This confirmation process is most appropriate for those youth currently in the 8th grade. However, consideration for inclusion will be made for those youth older than eighth grade who have not completed a confirmation process at their own church. If you want youth currently in 7th grade to participate, please contact Kathryn McGregor to discuss.

Expectations of Participating Churches

This Confirmation Cluster is an opportunity for churches with a small number of confirmands to partner with other churches, Bethelwoods, and the presbytery to provide a quality confirmation experience for their youth. Each participating church is expected to provide a confirmation leader, either the pastor, or an elder, to help plan, lead and teach in the large group meetings.

Each church is expected to provide adult chaperones for the two retreats, one same sex adult per seven youth. These adults may or may not be the lesson leaders.

Each church that has youth participating in the Confirmation Cluster is expected to provide trusted adults to be Covenant Partners for the youth participants. Churches may want to require that these Covenant Partners be Elders. In addition, the Session may want to approve the Covenant Partner selections.

Pastors and Session members are expected to provide support both for the youth participants and the Covenant Partners throughout this process by encouraging them, answering questions, and being a resource to them.

Youth that complete the Confirmation Cluster Event may or may not be ready to make a public profession of faith and join their particular church. The pastor and session of their church are expected to discuss with each youth their readiness following the second retreat.

Expectations of Youth

Each Youth Participant will be asked to select an adult from their congregation to serve as his or her Confirmation Covenant Partner. Covenant Partners will journey with their youth through this process and help the youth connect what they discuss in the large group meetings back to mission and ministry in their local congregation. Churches may have specific requirements regarding who is eligible to serve as a Covenant Partner. Sessions may also want to approve these selections. Youth are asked to share the expectations for Covenant Partners to participate in a portion of the retreats (see Expectations of Covenant Partners below) with persons they ask to be Covenant Partners.

Participating Youth are expected to attend both retreats and all large group meetings. In addition, youth will meet individually with their Covenant Partners twice between each large group meeting.

Confirmation is a journey of faith exploration that may result in the youth joining the church. That decision is fully up to the youth participant in consultation with his or her Covenant Partner, parents, and/or pastor. Confirmation is the beginning of a life-long journey of faith.

Expectations of Covenant Partners

Covenant Partners are expected to attend **Retreat 1 on Saturday, January 21** from lunch through group building only (12:00 – 5:00 pm) and **Retreat 2 on Saturday, May 5** (12:30 – 4:00 pm) from lunch through afternoon activity only. Covenant Partners are not required to attend the other large group meetings, but are welcome to attend if they so choose.

Covenant Partners are asked to meet with their Youth twice between each large group meeting. Each Covenant Partner will receive a Covenant Partner Manual at the January Retreat with ideas and information on what to do during their individual sessions.

Expectations of Parents

Parents of participating youth are expected to insure that their children are available and attend both retreats and all large group meetings. In addition, parents are expected to consult with their child's Covenant Partner and their child to schedule two meetings with the Covenant Partner between large group meetings.

Parents should understand that whether their child decides to make a public profession of faith and join the church at the end of the process is up to the child. The job of the parent is to support and encourage their child through this process.

Cost of Participation

The cost for participation in the Confirmation Cluster is \$200 per youth and \$100 per adult retreat chaperone. This fee only covers the cost of meals and lodging for the two retreats. All other expenses incurred to run this program are funded by the Bethelwoods and Education & Equipping Ministry Teams of Providence Presbytery. Churches outside of Providence Presbytery who would like to participate will be asked to pay for the cost of t-shirts for their participants and to assist in teaching and leading the retreat activities.

Professing Our Faith¹

A Confirmation Curriculum

Retreat 1 – January 20-22, 2012

- Session 1 – You Are What You Wear
 - Baptism, Clothed with Christ, Beginning our Journey
- Session 2 – How Do You Spell Presbyterian?
 - The Church and the church

Meeting 2 – February 12, 2012

- Session 3 – Where Is God When It Hurts?
 - God’s providence, power, and love

Meeting 3 – March 18, 2012

- Session 4 – Extravagant Love
 - Jesus Christ and his love and sacrifice

Meeting 4 – April 15, 2012

- Session 5 – We’ve Got the Spirit!
 - The power and presence of the Holy Spirit
 - Begin writing/working on personal statements of faith

Retreat 2 – May 4-6, 2012

- Session 6 – Can You Hear Me Now?
 - Practice of prayer and listening to God
- Session 7 – Going Out!
 - Serving God in our communities and the world
- Session 8 – Grace and Gratitude
 - We love God because he first loved us

¹ 2005, Congregational Ministries Publishing, PCUSA

What to Bring to Retreats:

Clothes for being/playing outside – warm jacket for January

Raincoat

Sleeping bag & pillow or twin-sized bedding

Towel & washcloth

Flashlight

Personal items (shampoo, soap, etc.)

Water bottle

Prescription medications – in original labeled containers

Bible

Pens/Pencils

Musicians and Singers

Music is a part of the evening worship activity. If you play or sing, bring your instrument or vocal cords if you would like to participate in leading the evening vespers.

What NOT to Bring to Retreats or Large Group Events:

What you cannot stand to lose or anything illegal

Expensive clothes

Jewelry

Cell phones

iPods or other personal music players

Anything else that would tend to separate you from the group

In case of an emergency:

Family members will be able to contact the group leaders at any time. Please call Bethelwoods at 803-366-3722 or Kathryn McGregor at 803-417-2962 or your church's adult leaders if you have any concerns. Please do not call your youth as they will not be allowed to have their phones with them.

**Providence Presbytery's
2012 Confirmation Cluster
Youth Participant Application**

Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: _____ Sex: [] Male [] Female Grade _____

T-shirt size: _____

Parents Names: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Home Church: _____ City: _____

Date and place of Baptism (if known) _____

Name of Covenant Partner: _____

Covenant Partner's Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone: _____

Covenant Partner's E-mail Address: _____

_____ I am aware of all the dates for the beginning and ending retreats and the monthly group events. I agree to participate in both retreats, all group meetings, and meetings with my covenant partner.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more info: contact your pastor or Kathryn McGregor at 800-922-1609/ kmcgregor@providencepres.org.



Presbyterian Church (USA)

T. Mark Verdery
General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
markverdery@providencepres.org

Kathryn McGregor
Associate Presbyter for
Education and Resourcing
kmcgregor@providencepres.org

Dot Killian
Associate Presbyter for
Congregational Development
and Mission
dot@providencepres.org

Keith Newman
Associate Presbyter for
Camp and Conference Ministry
keith@bethelwoods.org

Fred Powell
Consultant for Mission
phledd@truvista.net

Rose Lemmons-Berry
Business Administrator
lemmonsberry@providencepres.org

Inez Glasgow
Administrative Assistant
iglasgow@providencepres.org

Jill Wilson
Communications Coordinator
jill@providencepres.org



515 Oakland Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Phone: 803-328-6269
Toll Free: 800-922-1609
Fax: 803-328-8701

www.providencepres.org

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

Name of Youth: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

****Please list all possible contact numbers.**

I grant permission for my above-named youth to participate in Providence Presbytery's 2012 Confirmation Cluster events at Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center. Furthermore, I understand that every effort will be made to insure safety and I will not hold Providence Presbytery, Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center, the adult leaders, or my local church responsible for any accidents or injuries from accidents.

In the event of a medical emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. If I cannot be reached in the event of an emergency, I hereby authorize one of the adult leaders on the trip, as an agent for me, to consent to an x-ray examination; medical, dental, or surgical diagnosis; and hospital care advised and supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist (as appropriate) licensed to practice in South Carolina, either at a doctor's office or in any hospital. Should there be no adult leader available, I give permission to the attending physician, hospital or clinic to treat my minor child.

Further, as parent or legal guardian, I am responsible for the health care decisions for my minor child and agree that my insurance plan is the primary plan to pay for the dental, medical, or hospital care or treatment that is given to my child. Any policy of the church, presbytery, or organization sponsoring the event will be used as the secondary coverage.

I also give permission for the use of photography and video including my child to be reproduced and used in future promotional materials.

My child takes the following medications that will need to be administered at the retreats:

Dosage and Instructions:

**** Please send all prescription medications in an original bottle with doctor's instructions.**

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian:

Date: _____



Providence Presbytery
2012 Confirmation Cluster
Church Participation Form

Church Name: _____

Pastor: _____

Confirmation Cluster Representative: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Number of Youth Participants: _____

Number of Adult Chaperones for Retreats: _____

Cost is \$200 per youth participant and \$100 per adult retreat chaperone. A \$50 deposit per youth is due when registering. Balance is due January 15, 2012.

To Register your church:

Please send to Kathryn McGregor, Providence Presbytery, 515 Oakland Ave., Rock Hill, SC 29730:

- ___ This completed Church Participation Form
- ___ A completed Participant Application Form for each youth participant
- ___ A signed medical release form for each youth participant
- ___ A copy of the FRONT & BACK of the medical insurance card for each youth participant
- ___ Registration fee (\$50 per youth participant)

Amount due Jan. 15: _____ (\$150 per youth participant + \$100 per adult retreat chaperone)

** Participating Church Planning Meeting: **Thursday, November 10** at 7pm at Providence Presbytery.