

CONFIRMATION CREED

**We believe in God, the Almighty Father,
who is all around us in creation.**

**Whether we perceive his impact on the world as good or bad,
we believe God will always do things because he loves us.**

**We believe in God's Son Jesus,
who died on the cross for us
and was raised from the dead.**

**We believe in treating others how we want to be treated,
as Jesus taught us.**

**His teachings lead us to become more perfect selves,
and his faith inspires our own.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who always cares for us with peace and love,
even in the depths of our disbelief.**

**We believe that God's Holy Spirit is always around us,
and brings us together in times of crisis to do our part.**

**We believe in the power of Scripture,
which provides a cornerstone for our faith and our belief.
Its sacred text provides us with Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth,
instructions on how to love and forgive each other and God.**

**We also believe in the power of the Church,
the great congregation of people who worship God.**

**When we go to church, we feel better connected
to God the Father,
to Jesus Christ, and
to the Holy Spirit.**

We are inspired to do God's bidding and make the world a better place.

Confirmation creed written by the 2020 Confirmation Class at Onalaska UMC based on their studies of scripture, church tradition, reason, and experience.



ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2020 Confirmation Class

Student:

Ana Filips⁺°

Devan Hutson⁺°

Sophie Johns⁺°

Ben Loyd⁺°

Molly Towner⁺°

Calvin Weber⁺°

Nicholas White⁺°

Shay Wilk⁺°

Mentor:

Lisa Hutson

Lisa Filips

JoAnn Kinstler

John Reimler

Colleen Neitzel

Lance Barnes

Lexi Nelson

Loretta Dunn

Parents:

Doug & Lisa Filips

Brent & Lisa Hutson

Scott & Tina Johns

Chis & Jenni Loyd

Chris & Jennifer Towner

Josh & Cheryl Weber

Brandon & Brenda White

Tom & Stacy Wilk

Pastor: M. Park Hunter

Confirmation at Onalaska United Methodist Church is not a program of rote memorization, but rather an exploration of baptismal faith. These students and mentors have spent the year asking hard questions, studying the bible, learning about theology and church history, helping others, praying, and having fun. Some of the expectations of confirmation students:

- Read the book of Matthew and discuss it with a mentor.
- Attend worship regularly and serve as ushers, communion helpers, nursery workers, and other volunteers.
- Attend Wednesday night SOAR and Sunday morning classes.
- Serve others through mission work.
- Attend an overnight retreat on Methodist history and theology.

We also had bonfires, field trips, and lots of games of “sardines!”

Each student considered carefully whether they are at the point in their journey where they are ready to profess their faith and confirm vows made by their parents at their baptism.

⁺ students professing their faith ° students becoming OUMC members

INTRODUCTION

Pastor: Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Through the sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Pastor: I present the following students, who have completed the confirmation course of study:

Ana Filips
Devan Hutson
Sophie Johns
Ben Loyd
Molly Towner
Calvin Weber
Nicholas White
Shay Wilk

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you believe that God loves you?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you believe your fullest understanding of God comes to you through Jesus Christ?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you believe God's Holy Spirit is always with you to help you and encourage you to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Students: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess God through Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in God's grace, and promise to serve God, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Students: I do.

CONFIRMATION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

(Confirmands step forward individually with their mentors, parents, and other invited family members or friends to be prayed over.)

Pastor: Remember your baptism, and be thankful.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Pastor: Will you be loyal to this congregation of The United Methodist Church and support it with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Students: I will.

Pastor: According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

Students: I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.