



GLC&S Confirmation Ministry

# Mentor Orientation

Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines a mentor as a trusted counselor or guide. Think Moses and Joshua, Naomi and Ruth, Paul and his travel companions, our faith history is full of mentoring relationships. In our Confirmation program, a mentor initiates a relationship with the mentee and the mentee's parents to build trust necessary to carry out faithful conversations and activities with the confirmand. The following activities (spread throughout an entire academic year) help facilitate this relationship.

The Mentor Profile is a simple way for mentors to begin building this relationship by introducing themselves to the mentee. During mentor orientation, the mentor completes this profile, providing contact information, hobbies, vocation, interests, birthday, favorite restaurant, etc.

The Mentor-Mentee-Parent Potluck and Advent Breakfast facilitate communication between parents, mentors and confirmands regarding the purpose, expectations, and happenings of the Mentor Program.

Mentor Sundays are scheduled throughout the year to gather for conversation and relationship building based on the promises confirmands will make on Confirmation Sunday.

The Worship Experience, Service Project, and Congregational Leadership Experience are meant to help Confirmands examine their faith, experience a variety of Christian expressions, and see how life in the congregation is lived out by our members.

A mentor is a resource for faithful conversations and activities related to baptized life in the Christian Church. This means that mentors listen to the mentee's joys and dreams as well as struggles and challenges. A mentor is a fellow sojourner on a pilgrimage of faith with the mentee, encouraging the mentee to ask the question: "Where is God in all this?" While mentors share wisdom from their own pilgrimage of faith, mentors also give the mentee space to talk and share their interests, hobbies, fears, questions and faith experiences. Mentors are called to listen intently.

## Relationships function in multiple directions...

Many times a mentor and a mentee both strive to build a substantive and compassionate relationship. Hopefully, the bonds of faith are deepened for both mentor and mentee through shared fellowship, discipleship, worship and service in the name of Jesus. This makes for a rewarding experience for both mentee and mentor.

At the same time, every mentor-mentee relationship is different, and the expectations of the mentor-mentee relationship should be realistic. Every mentor-mentee relationship may not meet pre-conceived expectations of success. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that the Christian life is a life of discipleship—a matter of taking up the cross and following Jesus. This cross-shadowed path of discipleship may sometimes mean that the mentor is hampered by resistance or apathy on the part of the mentee in what seems to be a less than “successful” or personally unrewarding experience.

Mentors are encouraged to remember that the relationship between a mentor and a mentee is mutual, requiring a willingness of all parties to engage in faithful conversations and fellowship activities. This mutual relationship cannot be coerced or manipulated. Rather, this relationship is entrusted to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the sure and certain hope that regardless of perceived success, seeds are being planted in the lives of both the mentee and mentor.

## Mentor-Mentee moments need not be complicated...

- You could invite your mentee to sit with you during worship.
- You could send them a postcard or text of encouragement during the week.
- You could invite them to a Cantata or Oktoberfest or a church event.
- You could have your mentee over for dinner with your family.
- You could attend your mentee’s sporting or academic or school event.
- You could pray for your mentee and ask them to pray for you.

