

Diocesan Supported
CONFIRMATION
Formation

Diocesan Supported
C**CONFIRMATION**
Formation
Ages 14 & Older

Online & Hybrid | Group and Independent Work

Ten Areas of Focus | Facilitated on the Diocesan Level

Built in Retreats | Companion Resources

Flexible Confirmation Service Options



What Confirmation Could Be

"...a unique opportunity for young people to strengthen their understanding of the Christian faith, deepen their experience of Christian community, and discern their call to join God's mission in the world."

(The Confirmation Project (a "Christian Youth: Learning and Living the Faith")



What Confirmation Can Do

"We believe, and the research confirms, that confirmation is the claiming of baptism and an invitation to a life of deeper discipleship lived in community. When confirmation preparation is done intentionally and done well on the local and diocesan level as baptismal affirmation, it has an impact on the spiritual lives of youth as part of a lifelong call to discipleship. It can transform ourselves, each other, and the entire Church."
(Confirmation Collaborative of the Episcopal Church)



Foundation

"The Confirmation Project seeks to learn the extent to which confirmation and equivalent practices (CEP) in five Protestant denominations in the United States are effective for strengthening discipleship in youth. Strengthening discipleship includes nurturing faith in Jesus Christ and facilitating youth encounters with Christian traditions (Scripture, creeds, confessions, and practices) to support lifelong Christian vocation."
(Overview of the Confirmation Project)



Foundation Continued

The Confirmation Project surveyed ministers, parents, volunteers, and youth involved in confirmation from the fall of 2014 through the spring of 2016.

Using the research from CPS, Baptized for Life, part of Lifelong Formation at Virginia Theological Seminary launched the Confirmation Collaborative.

(Confirmation Collaborative of the Episcopal Church)



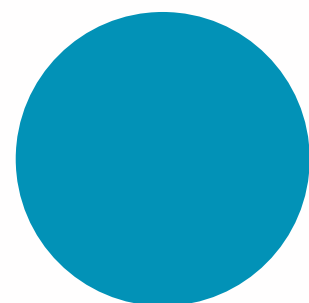
Who? Youth 14 & Older...

What we know about faith development mirrors what we know about adolescent brain development. Brain development in the prefrontal cortex, the area responsible for critical thinking, is the last area of the brain to fully mature. Using this kind of research has impacted how The Episcopal Church thinks about and engages in faith formation with children, young people and adults. In the same way that we know a 12 or 13 year old is not equipped to handle driving, we know, again because of "back to front brain thinking" in younger adolescents, they are not typically equipped to make a decision or engage in the real formation required for Confirmation.

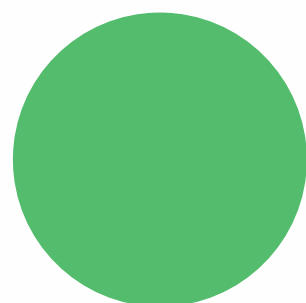


CREATE CURRICULUM

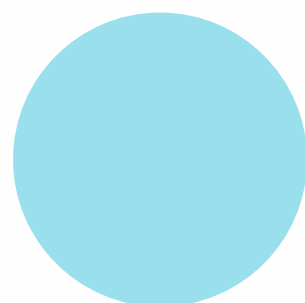
The Rev'd Jenifer Gamber • The Rev'd Katherine Kanto Doyle • Mrs. Jamie Martin-Currie • Mrs. Sharon Pearson



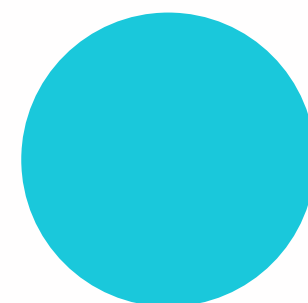
Connect



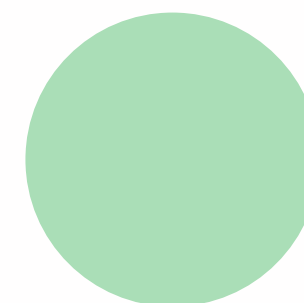
Read



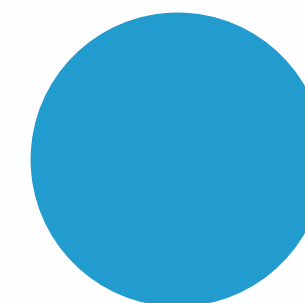
Experience



Ask



Take



Engage

This course is generously supported by TryTank and Pathways for Baptismal Living at Bexley-Seabury Seminary.



CONNECT

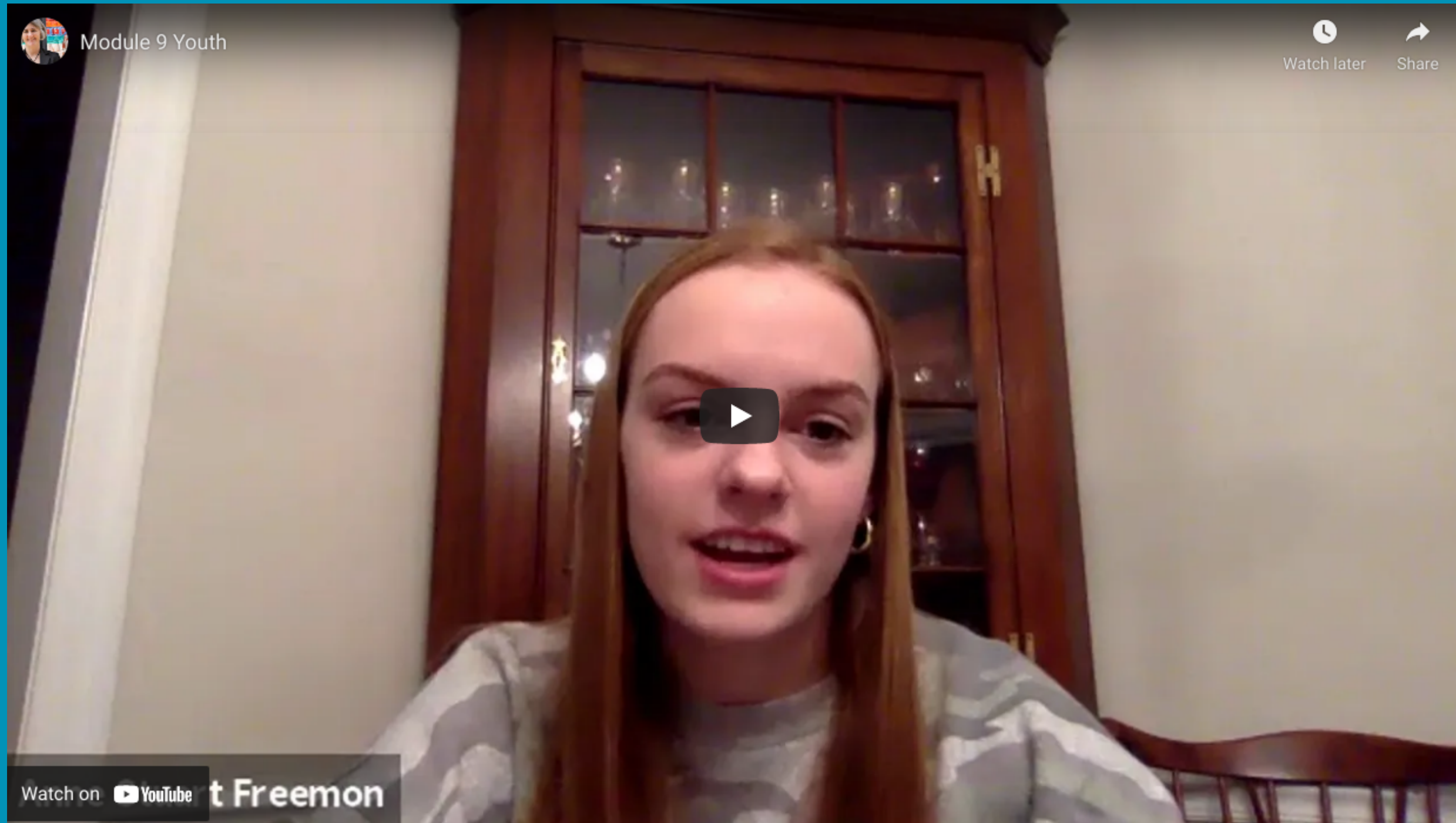
...CONNECT with another youth by watching a video or another youth by sharing his/her/their story.



Diocesan Supported Confirmation Information | March 2022



Navigating the Church • Session 9

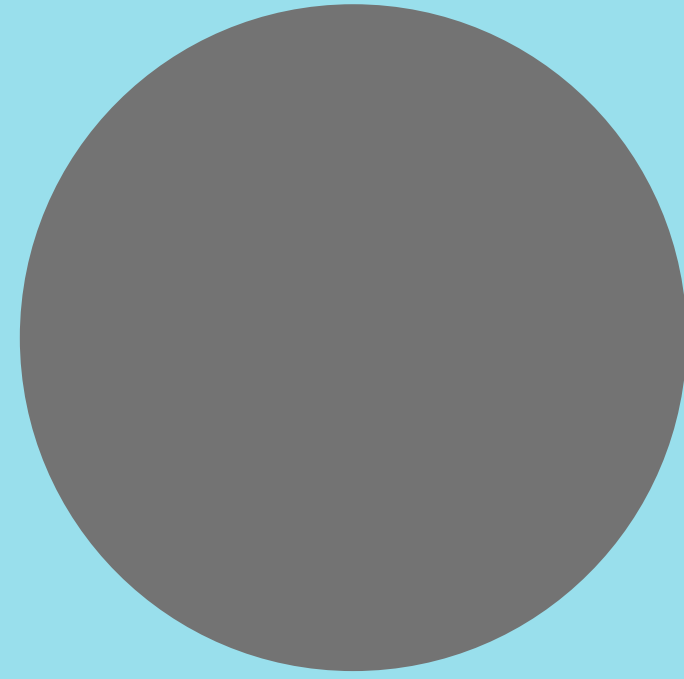




READ

... READ a text, whether the text is written or spoken words, video, or artwork. This segment begins with a video by an Episcopalian talking about a topic and inviting the viewer to engage with the module.

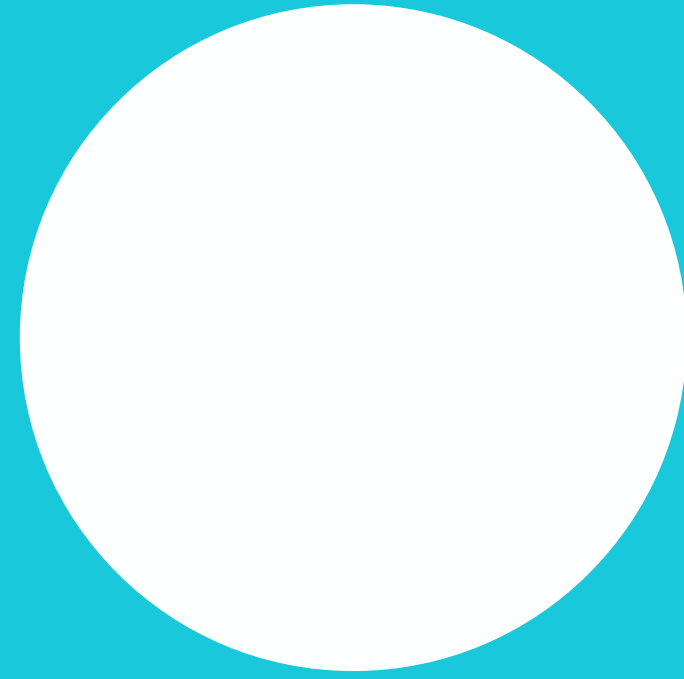




EXPERIENCE

...consider your own EXPERIENCE in relation to the topic

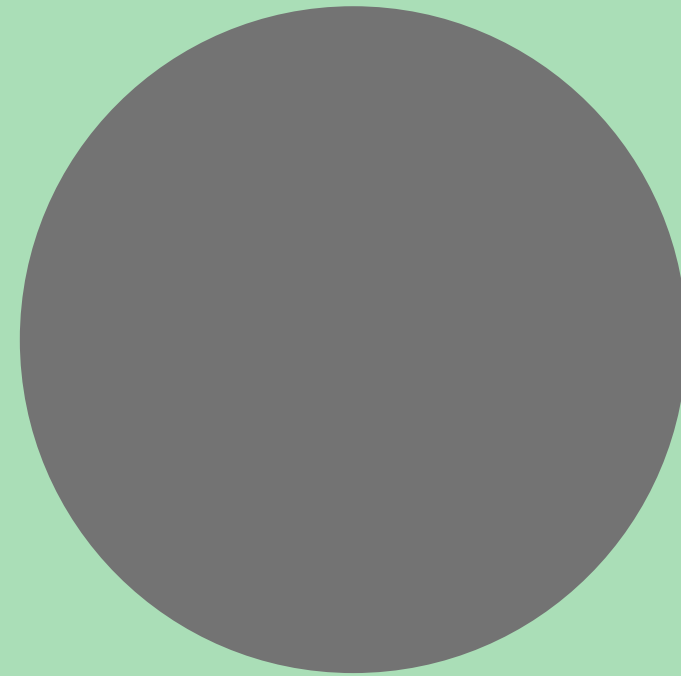




ACT

...respond to what you have learned by taking ACTION

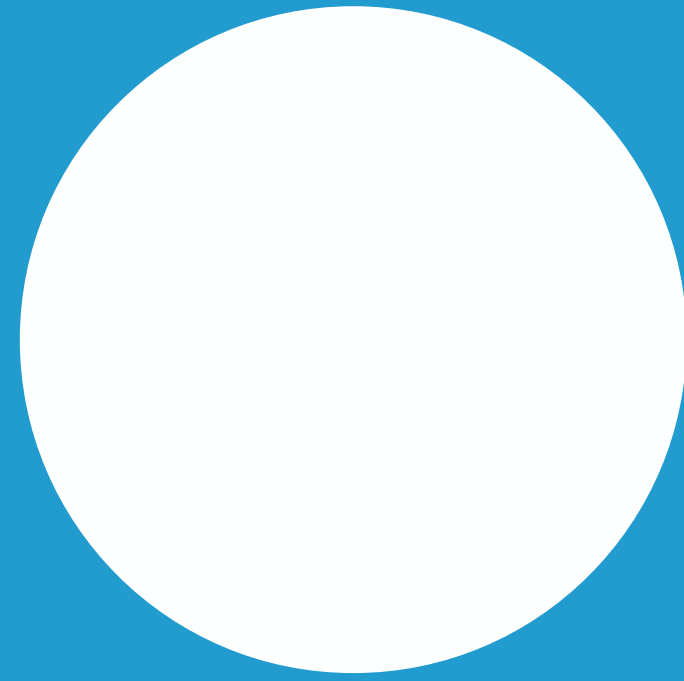




TAKE

...name what you will TAKE with you from this module so that you can apply the learning to future experiences, study, conversations, or practices





ENGAGE

...ENGAGE with your community, whether that be a group of youth, your mentor, and/or others.

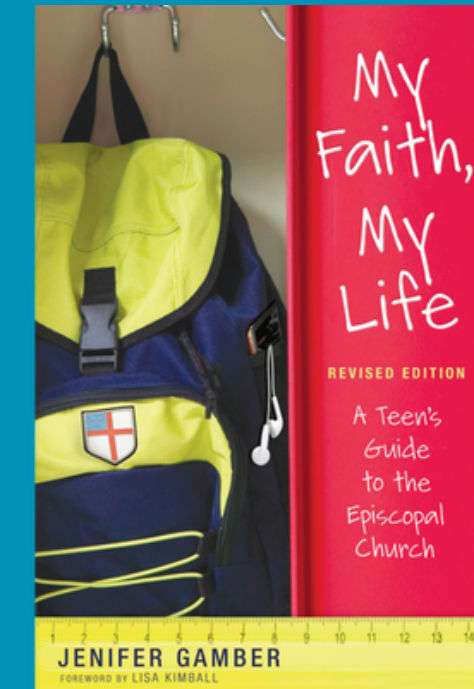




CREATE follows *My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church*.

The following 10 areas are covered:

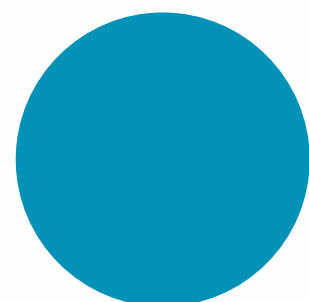
- Welcome
- Baptism
- Bible
- History of the Church
- What Do We Believe?
- Worship
- Sacraments
- Spirituality
- Navigating the Church
- Mission + Ministry



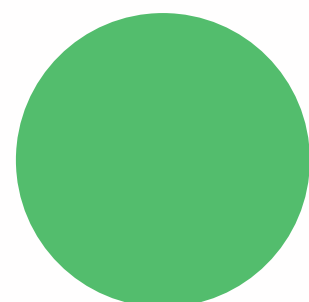


PROGRAM LOGISTICS

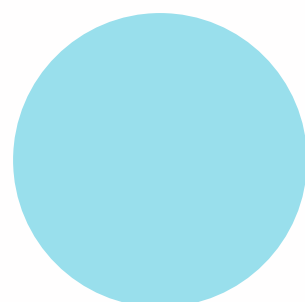
Commitment & Expectations



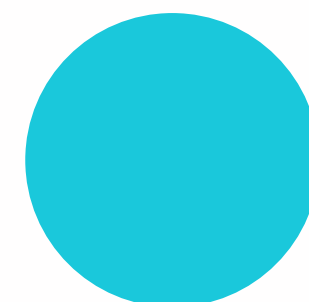
Timeline



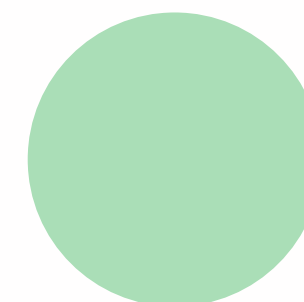
Dicoese



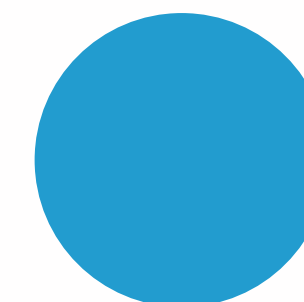
Parish



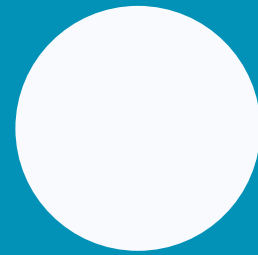
Young People



Mentors



Parents



TIMELINE

- March 2022 – Parishes can begin discernment and conversation about engaging with this program
- April 4 – June 7, 2022 – Parishes that wish to participate will complete an online parish registration form. Once that form is complete, individuals listed through parishes will be sent registration invitations through the Diocese of Washington. Registration closes on June 7, 2022.
- June & July 2022 – Catechists are trained by The Rev'd Jenifer Gamber
- August 1, 2022 – Parish Confirmation Mentors for each confirmand should be identified
- August 2022 – Mid to Late August Parish Confirmation Mentors will attend an online training with Emily Gowdy Canady
- September 2022 – The week of September 11th the first cohort of the program begins
- March 2023 – The week of March 15th the first cohort of the program ends

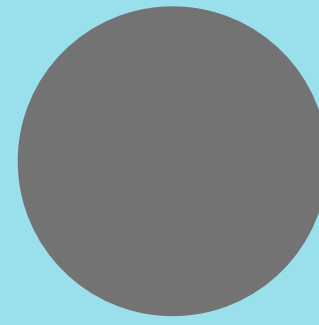




DIOCESE

- Logistics and program coordination
- Training and access to resources
- Support for young people, mentors, parents, and parishes

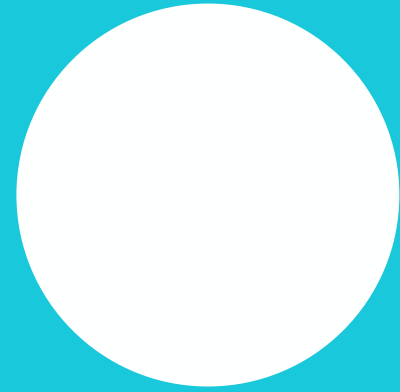




PARISH

- Identify someone who will serve as their parish's point person for the program
- Help identify mentors for confirmands. Mentors need to be confirmed.
- \$20 per student fee due to the Diocese upon enrollment. A copy of My Faith, My Life is needed for each confirmand and mentor pair.
- Include confirmands and mentors regularly (monthly/by semester) in Prayers of the People, newsletters or other means of communicating with the parish
- Work with families and confirmands on how Confirmation will occur (options provided by the diocese)
- If the young people who are confirmed are not confirmed in their home parish, how with the parish celebrate and honor these young people in their parish?

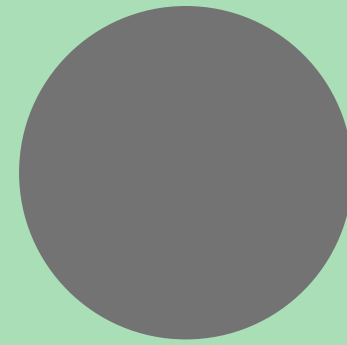




YOUNG PEOPLE

- Commit to attend the bi-monthly Zoom gatherings, meeting with their mentor, 2 retreats, and to complete outside session work as needed
- Ask for help or support from mentors, catechists, and parish leaders when needed
- Pray for the other young people and mentors in the program

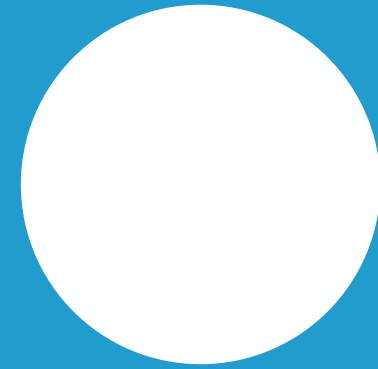




MENTORS

- Complete all necessary Background Checks and SafeGuarding training prior to beginning the program
- Commit to attending Mentor Training
- Meet 3 to 4 times per program semester in person* with their confirmand and attend 2 retreats
- Pray for their confirmand, the other mentors and catechists throughout the program





PARENTS

- Support their young person throughout this process
- Understand the commitment this program expects and help their confirmand as needed
- Pray for their confirmand, the other confirmands, mentors, catechists, and parents



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Ages 14 & Older

Cohort begins - September 2022

- **Who We Are** • Modules 1 - 5 • complete by November
- **Who We Are** • Retreat • December 9-10 • Trinity Center

Cohort resumes - January 2023

- **What We Do** • Modules 6 -10 • complete by March 12
- **What We Do** • Retreat • Late March 2023 • TBA

Deanery Confirmations • Will be offered in Eastertide 2023 • Dates TBA

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Questions?