

Profession of Faith/New Members/Confirmation

Based on our review and use of various resources, Canadian Ministries recommends the following materials:

*** Glorifying and Enjoying God: The People, Practice and Promise of The Presbyterian Church in Canada;**

Dorothy Henderson; The Presbyterian Church in Canada

This newly updated booklet can be read individually or in a group setting. This resource can be used for adults or youth but is not geared towards younger learners. It provides discussion opportunities but few activities. Length of Study: 7 sessions.

*** Gifts of God: The Sacraments** (DVD and study guide) Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2010. A resource for all age groups in congregations designed to help Christians new or mature understand the beauty and meaning of the Sacraments. Length of Video – 14 minutes (two 7 minute clips); study guide includes 2 expandable sessions.

*** I Believe: Getting ready to profess my faith** (Christian Reform Church); Jessie Schut; Faith Alive Christian Resources

This resource pairs youth and adult mentors to learn together or it can be done in small groups. It encourages studying Scripture, personal expression of faith through creative means, asking questions and discussion. Length of Study: 8 sessions, (some Christian Reformed content)

*** Leap in Faith: A Confirmation Resource;** Leslee Alfano, Noelle Bowles, and Rick Garland; United Church Publishing House

This is a resource that challenges youth to explore their Christian faith and understand how it intersects with life. Many different options are provided for its use, both personal and community, depending on the context. The resource also provides “challenges”, ways for congregations to engage in new ministry opportunities and programs. It is not organized into designated “sessions”. (some United Church of Canada resources and references)

*** Making Disciples: A New Approach to Confirmation;** William H. Willimon; Logos Productions Inc.

This is a mentor-based confirmation program that pairs youth with adult mentors and guides them through learning experiences that strengthen an understanding of the Christian faith and connect youth with the community of believers in a personal way. Coordinator’s guide, mentor’s guide and support video, confirmand’s journal and guide, are available. Study: 13 sessions.

*** The Great Adventure: Exploring Christian Faith with Young People;** Patricia Pays; Anglican book Centre (some Anglican content and examples)

An innovative resource that provides sound theological background and a wide range of engaging activities (drama, music, literature) to help students aged 10-15 explore Christian faith. The focus on faith development is excellent and universal. Length of Study: 7 sessions.

*** We Believe: Professing Our Faith: A Confirmation Curriculum;** Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Meg Rift & Eunice McGarrahan (some American content and examples)

This resource provides youth with a foundational understanding of Reformed-Presbyterianism. It presents the biblical foundations and theology of the Apostle’s Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord’s Prayer. The resource encourages young people to explore the meaning of their baptism and participation at the Lord’s Supper, church polity, stewardship, spiritual practices, worship and mission. Length of Study: 2 options – full length format includes 35 sessions, including two for use at Christmas and Easter, and is designed for use during the school year or an abbreviated 8-session program. Order directly from PC(USA) at www.store.pcusa.org or by calling 1-800-524-2612.

Additional Resources:

From The Presbyterian Church in Canada

A Catechism for Today For sale or free download at <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

Living Faith: An Interactive Study Guide to Living Faith

For sale or free download [file:///C:/Users/asaunders/Downloads/Living_Faith_Study%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/asaunders/Downloads/Living_Faith_Study%20(2).pdf)

Profession of Faith Certificate (also called “Affirmation Certificate”) <http://presbyterian.ca/resource-centre/> (under Worship)

Affirmation of Baptism/Reception of New Members: Profession of Faith in *The Book of Common Worship*
<http://presbyterian.ca/worship/#book-of-common-worship>

From The Presbyterian Church (USA)

Belonging to God: A First Catechism (Considered suitable for elementary-aged children, preteens)

Can be downloaded

Without scripture passages: <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/belonging-god-first-catechism/>

With scripture passages: <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/belonging-god-first-catechism-biblical-references/>

We Believe: Professing Our Faith – A confirmation curriculum for youth

Eight sessions or a full-length 35 session program designed for use during the school year.

Order directly from PC(USA) at <http://www.pcusastore.com/> or by calling 1-800-524-2612

Planning A Faith Formation Program

Before choosing and planning a program, leaders might want to discuss and reflect on objectives and the best way to achieve them. For example, they might consider reading an article like

“Faith Development and Faith Formation: More than just ages and stages” by Robert J. Keeley, *Lifelong Faith*, 2010

http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/faith_development_faith_formation_-_keeley.pdf