



The Episcopal Diocese in Hawai'i

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Bishop

Confirmation: Minimum Requirements for Youth *(January 1, 2020)* **[Ages 13 to 18 (grades 7 to 12)]**

“In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, however, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.”
The Book of Common Prayer, page 413

“Confirmation is the sacramental rite in which a Christian can express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.... It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.” *The Book of Common Prayer, page 860*

To be confirmed in the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i a young person must meet the following requirements:

- Be a baptized Christian
- Be at least 13 years old (seventh grade). The confirmand should be old enough to make a mature decision. Each candidate should be of such maturity as to be able to make meaningful vows that impact their lives. Typically the age is 13 or older, but pastoral exceptions are possible and must be approved by the Bishop upon the written recommendation of the priest in charge of the young person's congregation.
- Be a regular participant in the life, worship, education and outreach of the congregation presenting him or her
- Write a letter to the Bishop (see below)
- Attend the group confirmand meeting with the Bishop, held prior to the Confirmation service

These requirements apply to youth age 13 (grade 7) through age 18 (grade 12).

It is expected that each candidate for Confirmation will have received quality instruction in their congregation that includes the basics of the Christian faith and the Episcopal expression of it.

At this time, the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i recommends using “Faith Confirmed: Preparing for Confirmation” ([click here](#) to order). This Confirmation program was developed with the help of Episcopal educators, clergy and theologians, and it encourages youth and adults to enter into a uniquely Episcopal – yet profoundly Christian-faith life. The easily adapted format works for a traditional five, ten, or twenty week program with, perhaps, a Confirmation retreat or conference, or as a sacramental supplement to other programs. This program is suitable for youth, adult or intergenerational programs with parish involvement.

Other curriculums are, of course, acceptable. “Faith Confirmed: Preparing for Confirmation” can be viewed as the minimum standard of preparation of young persons for presentation for Confirmation.

If any other curriculum, it is helpful for the Bishop to understand the method of preparation and how the confirmands have engaged with the foundations of the faith. Components for preparation should always include:

- God
- Faith
- Bible
- Sacraments
- Christian Life and Prayer
- Episcopal identity

Every congregation has different circumstances, but the Bishop hopes requirements for each congregation will ensure that all those presented for Confirmation have:

- Adult sponsors/mentors who are active in the ministry of the Church
- Volunteer opportunities in some type of community service
- The opportunity to take part in leadership in some aspect of worship
- Occasions to learn about the ministries and mission opportunities of the local congregation, the Diocese and The Episcopal Church

Each confirmand will need to write a letter to the Bishop that includes their name, age, and congregation. The purpose of the letter is to help the Bishop get to know the confirmands before his arrival at the worship service. The letter also can provide a way for the confirmands to show they have thought through their faith, and are able in their own words to explain their faith and why they want to be confirmed.

The letters do not need to be long and they do not need to be typed (they may also be e-mailed), but confirmands need to write about these things:

1. Write a little about their faith journey and about their faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Write about a ministry in the Church in which they have been involved or a mission trip they have taken and why it has been meaningful to their life of faith.
3. Write about their ongoing call to be a member of the Body of Christ—what new ministry will they do in their church, or what ongoing ministry will they continue?

Preferably, the Bishop should receive the letters two weeks prior to the Confirmation service. They can be sent to the Bishop at the Diocesan Support Center:

Mail to:

The Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii
229 Queen Emma Square
Honolulu, HI 96813

Or upload here: <https://form.jotform.com/200307803182142>