

# The Divine Comedy:

## *Notes from Pastor Darryl*

May 2017

Want to read a dirty little secret about me? I was never confirmed! Your minister jumped ahead from baptism to ordination without ever being confirmed in the church. I was baptized as an infant, but my family was not active in a church during my (pre)teenage years. And so, I never went through the catechism of being confirmed. I never had to stand up in front of the congregation and publically declare that I wanted to be a Christian, validate my baptism, or become a member of a congregation. And yet, all of those things were assumed when I was ordained.

Some of you may be asking: “what is confirmation?” According to the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*, Confirmation is understood this way:

A person is incorporated into the universal church through the sacrament of baptism. When an infant or a very young child is baptized, the baptismal vows or promises are made by a proxy for the child (usually parents or god-parents).

As a child who was baptized in infancy approaches adolescence, the church offers that person the opportunity to give public assent to the baptismal promises. Confirmation celebrates this occasion of affirmation of baptism in the life of the individual and the local church.

On Sunday, May 21, 2017, we will host our Confirmation Sunday. This year, we will confirm four young people. And the Sunday promises to be a service full of magic and wonder, laughter and love. Here is what you can expect:

- ❖ Our Confirmands will present **THEIR** beliefs about God, Jesus, The Church, Creation, and the Afterlife. We stress **THEIR** beliefs. Some may present a faith that is fairly traditional and orthodox, but others may affirm a faith that is way outside the box.

- ❖ The youth can express their beliefs in a variety of ways, using diverse mediums and media, and that is in concert with how God created them to be. This means that we will see God’s gift of multiple intelligences and emotional intelligences expressed through these amazing young people.
- ❖ These “Covenants” are an expression of what the Confirmands believe right now. Confirmation is a process, and the service that concludes this part of their spiritual journey, is about affirming their faith as it stands right now. How many of us can claim that our beliefs and faith hasn’t changed, evolved, shifted, or morphed as we aged and experienced life?
- ❖ The Confirmands will also be joining the church that Sunday. Meaning that they now have all the rights and privileges that come with membership. We always celebrate when new people desire to join our church, but it is especially wonderful when it is our young people re-affirming their place within our community of faith.

So, I hope you’ll join us on what promises to be one of the most amazing worship services and celebrations of the year. All the Confirmands will present their covenants at both the 8:30am and 10am Services. If you see one of our Confirmands, give them a word of encouragement. Tell them that you love them and are praying for them as they take these last few steps in the confirmation process. A lot of hard work and creativity will go into that Sunday – not just by our confirmands but by their mentors, as well.

May 21<sup>st</sup> is a very important Sunday in the life of these young people and in the life of our church. For it will be a Sunday when we will live out and live in a very real way the words we say each week, “No matter who you are, or where you come from, or where you are in your life’s journey, you’re welcome and loved at KCC!”

We hope to see you then.

Peace. Love. Understanding.

*Pastor Darryl*