

# Confirmation Parent Meeting

Jan 30, 2026

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## Summary

### Confirmation Opening Meeting – Lakeside UMC

#### Gathering Information

- Place: Lakeside United Methodist Church (online kick-off)
- Leader: Pastor David

#### Scripture References

Psalm 27:1–3

Matthew 17 (reference only; verse not specified)

#### Introduction

Pastor David opened the spring-semester Confirmation orientation with the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer (John Wesley). He framed the session around Simon Sinek's “Start with Why” model:

1. WHY Confirmation matters
2. HOW Lakeside will conduct it
3. WHAT students and families will experience and promise.

#### Key Points

- Confirmation completes or anticipates Baptism by giving young people a chance to “own” the baptismal covenant.
- Confirmands move from “baptized” to “professing” members; they can vote on church matters thereafter.
- Historical continuity: catechesis/confirmation has existed for ~1,900 years.
- Lakeside's program = 12 Sundays (tonight through 3 May) + two extra events:
  - Fri 6 Feb: visit to Temple Beth Torah
  - Sat 28 Feb: Conference-wide “Confirmand Day” at Memorial UMC (service project, learning, communion with the Bishop).
- Confirmation Sunday: 17 May (arrive early). Students will state vows, receive Bibles, and be prayed over with the baptismal prayer.
- Three content units:

1. Shared Heritage (Judaism, early Church, Methodist movement, Christian family tree)
2. Core Theology (God, Jesus, sin, grace, salvation)
3. Covenant Vows (detailed review and meaning).
  - Weekly session flow: Connect → Explore → Reflect (sometimes an art/creative element).

## **Theological / Exegetical Points**

- Baptism: God's covering; infant baptism welcomes children into God's family.
- Confirmation: personal affirmation of baptismal grace; vows stress resisting evil, witnessing to Christ, and serving through the Church.
- Methodist identity: creedal (Apostles' Creed foundational); historically rooted in the Church of England, with later movements (e.g., Pentecostalism) branching from Methodism.
- Covenant & Community: discipleship is never solitary; vows bind confirmands and congregation to mutual support ( “prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness” ).

## **Interaction & Group Responses**

- Parents shared personal “most meaningful church moments” :
  - Pandemic-era baptisms at Lakeside (both adult and children).
  - Pastor's photo of his daughter Elisha reciting Matthew 17 on her Confirmation Sunday.
- Students honestly affirmed preference for interactive learning over long lectures (reiterated).

## **Practical Applications**

Confirmand “Action Items” (tracked with sign-offs):

1. Memorize / recite the Lord's Prayer.
2. Memorize / recite the Apostles' Creed.
3. Choose and memorize one personal “life verse.”
4. Regular Sunday worship attendance (sign-off).
5. Regular UMYF attendance (Confirmation meets 4:30–5:30 pm within UMYF, 4:30–6:00 pm total).
6. Complete one mission/outreach project (automatically fulfilled at Conference Confirmand Day).
7. Faith Heritage field trip (Temple Beth Torah visit).

## **Prayer / Intercession Items**

- Wesleyan Covenant Prayer (prayed in full to open).
- Ongoing: pray that students will grasp and live their baptismal vows; pray for supportive community around each confirmand.

### **Next Meeting / Future Arrangements**

- Weekly sessions: Sundays, 4:30–5:30 pm (pick-up option at 6:00 pm).
  - Group text / GroupMe to follow for reminders & materials.
  - If a session is missed, Pastor David will e-mail the family lesson summary and resources; parents are encouraged to review with the student.
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Psalm 27:1–3 (NRSV)

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—

my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.