

Confirmation Parent Meeting

Jan 30, 2026

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 confirmants 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

Confirmant “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 Confirmant 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.

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.