

Faith Statement

Instructions for Trainees
Discipleship Training
2016-2017

Purpose

The purpose of writing a faith statement is to help youth interact with the faith they've been learning. It attempts to get kids to think about what is at the core of their beliefs.

Overview

Youth involved in Discipleship Training are involved in a discipleship process that shapes them to think more clearly about what they believe. When youth affirm their baptism, they make public profession of their faith, saying, this is what I believe. Then, they commit to living more deeply in the faith.

Faith statements are to be written by the youth. Parents and youth are encouraged to work together so that together, they can think about what it means to be a believing Christian. These statements should be declarations of what, at the heart of the faith, matters. Because they are written by each trainee, they will be personal and particular to each trainee.

Instructions

The faith statement is to be a written paper, three pages in length, using Times New Roman font, 12 point, double space, with gins set at 1". It is to have a cover page.

To prepare for these papers, we will have Faith Journals in class with specific prompts and reflection questions to help the youth explore their faith. We will have designated dates on our calendar for "faith journal check-ins" to discuss questions and to readdress if there are topics we want to engage further.

The following outline will help each Trainee think about organizing their written statement.

Introduction

Tell who you and how old you are. Inform the reader when and where you were baptized, and who was present for your baptism. Indicate your "confirmation verse" which comes from your Guiding Word.

Part 1: I believe this about God

- Who is God and what does this mean to you?
- Who is Jesus and what does this mean to you?
 - o What does the death and resurrection of Jesus have to do with you?
- Who is the Holy Spirit and what does this mean to you?

Part 2: I believe this about the world

- How does your faith help you understand the world in which you live?
- How does God interact with the world?
- What does God hope for the world?

Part 3: I believe this about me

- How does your faith help you understand who you are?
- What does God hope for you?
- What is the role of Baptism and Holy Communion in your life?
- What is the role of worship of God in your life?

Part 4: My Confirmation Verse

- Repeat your confirmation verse and cite it properly.
- What does this verse teach you?
 - o About God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit
 - o About you, the world, and others
 - o About God's hopes for the world?

Conclusion

In the conclusion, discuss why you are ready to make public affirmation of baptism. How will Affirmation of baptism shape your faith? What will be different about you? Include a good concluding sentence that wraps everything up.

This paper will be presented (read) during Adult Forum on Sunday, April 30 from 10:15-11:15 am. Parents and the congregation will be invited to celebrate your work and to provide written feedback.

Timeline for the Faith Statement

November 2	Faith Statement Journal Check-In: We'll spend time in class looking at our faith journal and starting to think about our Faith Statement paper.
January 4	Faith Statement Journal Check-In
February 1	Faith Statement Journal Check-In
March 22	Faith Statement drafts due
April 5	Christine and PJ returns drafts with comments.
April 19	Faith Statements final draft due
April 30	Youth Present Faith Statements in Adult forum (Sunday 10:15-11:15 am)