

Basics and Goals of Confirmation Plainfield United Methodist Church

Confirmation is more than a single time when one “joins the church” (that happens at baptism).

Becoming a “member” of PUMC is an important subset of “being the church.” In the United Methodist tradition we teach that a person becomes a member of the universal Christian church at baptism. On Confirmation Sunday confirmands formally join the local church, Plainfield UMC, and the global denomination of The United Methodist Church.

A helpful metaphor to explain this distinction is the relationship between being a citizen of the world (church parallels: the “global church,” the “body of Christ”) and a citizen of particular country with a particular nationality (“United Methodist”) and then at a later age registering to vote (“Confirmation Sunday,” local church “membership”) and committing to living life as a purposeful citizen by actually and regularly voting and contributing to the betterment of society by participating in civic organizations and political action (living out the five areas of our United Methodist vows by praying, worshipping, giving, serving, and witnessing).

Confirmation is a repeatable rite and a process.

Confirmation is a process through which we can re-examine our faith and our life together, recommit ourselves to God in Jesus Christ, and reaffirm the faith of the church in new and meaningful ways.

Confirmation is a rite of sanctification.

Confirmation marks those times in life when we recognize that we have grown in faith and discipleship.

Goal #1: Salvation and commitment

Make your commitment to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Goal #2: Proclaim the Christian faith as your own

Make your first (or early) public proclamation of your Christian faith.

Goal #3: Live the life of discipleship

Prepare yourselves for a lifetime of praying, worshipping, giving, serving, and witnessing.