

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA

The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards

20 April 2022 – Wednesday in Easter Week

Memo

To: Clergy and Wardens of Congregations in Upper South Carolina

Re: Age of Confirmation and Procedure for Confirmands Younger than 16 Years of Age

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

“Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.”

(Catechism, Book of Common Prayer p. 860)

In regards to questions regarding age at the time of Confirmation, it is expected that each confirmand demonstrate both a mature articulation of their Christian faith through reaffirmation of their Baptismal Covenant and a commitment to the life and work of the sponsoring congregation, which in turn commits to continue in their support of their fulfilling of that Baptismal Covenant in the ongoing ministry – both within the Church and out in the world.

While a rule of 16 years of age is helpful, it is also recognized that congregations are blessed with members who demonstrate sufficient maturity of faith and character to make the commitment required for Confirmation at an earlier age.

In the case of anyone being presented for Confirmation at an age younger than 16 years, a letter is required in the Bishop’s Office one month prior to the scheduled visitation date, including:

1. The name and age of the proposed Confirmand.
2. A statement by the sponsoring priest attesting to their maturity in faith and commitment to the work of the church.
3. Further documentation that both the sponsoring priest and the vestry of the congregation commit to support the proposed Confirmand in their ongoing growth in Christ after Confirmation.
4. Signatures of the Sponsoring Priest and all members of the Vestry.

It is expected that clergy and wardens take steps to fulfill this obligation upon receipt of this memo and that this procedure be fully implemented no later than the Day of Pentecost - June 5, 2022.



The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards
IX Bishop