



Croydon Uniting Church

Confirmation



What is it...?

What does it mean...?

What do I need to do to become
a confirmed member...?

WHAT IS IT?

Confirmation is a significant act in a person's life of faith, as a public commitment to the purposes of God – and an acknowledgement of reliance on God.

It is an act of public acknowledgement and recognition of the promises made by ourselves or by others on our behalf at baptism.

Confirmation follows Baptism – for many this occurs many years after infant baptism, and for others baptism and confirmation will occur as part of the same act of worship and commitment.

Confirmation usually occurs after a period of preparation, which is dependant on individual needs and experiences. This preparation can range from a couple of discussion sessions to a series of educational opportunities.

During the rite (*special act*) of confirmation the person being confirmed (the confirmer) would commit themselves to:

- acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord,
- determination to follow him in daily life,
- intention to participate actively in the fellowship of the Church and to support its work,
- and resolution to seek the extension of the reign of God in human society.

[Regulations of the UCA]

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The church's recognition that an individual is a 'Confirmed member' designates no special status before God, since all are equal in his sight. In human terms it is an indication of significant commitment and in terms of the organization of the church's life it opens ways to proceed, where appropriate, to certain offices within the church, or to participate in significant decision-making processes.

Such promises are not to be taken lightly – and as such Confirmation should be considered in middle teenage years or later. It is an important part of the church's life.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BECOME A CONFIRMED MEMBER?

At Croydon Uniting we usually make a special occasion once a year when we seek those interested in being confirmed to participate in discussions led by our minister. If you are interested in confirmation we would be delighted to have you participate in this process. Names of those seeking confirmation are then taken to the Church Council for "formal approval", and then those seeking confirmation participate in a special service (including baptism if required).

If you have been confirmed or were a "full member" at another church or denomination, please discuss this with the minister as to the appropriate process of recognition or acknowledgement within the Uniting Church.