

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION, AND REAFFIRMATION**

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***What is confirmation?***

Confirmation is a mature commitment of faith made by those who have already been baptized. In the sacrament of confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit for service to Christ and his Church in the laying on of hands by the Bishop.

***What is required before being confirmed?***

In preparation for Confirmation, St. Stephen's offers confirmation classes for both high school teens and for adults. These classes focus on the reaffirmation of our Baptismal vows in the context of Episcopal Church life, and on the application of our faith to how we live our daily lives. It is expected that confirmands (in the case of adults) or their families (in the case of teens) will be members of record at St Stephen's.

***When do confirmations take place?***

Confirmations in the Diocese of Massachusetts are generally done in the spring at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont St. Boston, MA). As part of the South Shore Deanery (a geographic collection of churches) our confirmations take place during the same service as other churches in our deanery.

***I was confirmed in another denomination. How do I become an Episcopalian?***

If you have been baptized and confirmed in either the Roman Catholic Church or Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), and now wish to formally become a member of the Episcopal Church, you may choose to be "received" into the Episcopal Church with the laying on of hands by the Bishop, rather than be confirmed again. Reception of Candidates takes place at the same service as Confirmation. Please note that one is not required formally to become a member of the Episcopal Church in order to be a member of St. Stephen's or any other Episcopal parish. However, if you do choose to be formally

received (and we hope that you will!) you will be asked to take a series of classes with our candidates for Confirmation in preparation for your Reception.

***I was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church, but I've recently had an extraordinary renewal of my faith. Is there some way to celebrate this liturgically?***

The Episcopal Church has a wonderful provision for those who have already been baptized and confirmed or received, yet who find themselves in a place in their faith journey where they feel called to make a sacramental reaffirmation of their commitment to Christ and to receive the laying on of hands by the Bishop. Like Confirmation and Reception, the Reaffirmation of Faith takes place at the same service at St. Paul's Cathedral. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of formally reaffirming your faith and your commitment to Christ, please make an appointment to meet with one of our clergy.

