

Friendswood United Methodist Church

CONVERGE/student membership

Registration Packet 2018-2019

To register your child for confirmation:

- 1. Read through entire packet with your child.**
 - a. Discuss, as a family, the time commitment involved and how you (the parents) will also be involved with CONVERGE.
 - b. Contact the Student Ministry office if you have any questions.
- 2. Fill out the Confirmation Covenant.**
 - a. Your email addresses will automatically be added to the distribution list for our weekly CONVERGE e-newsletter.
- 3. Fill out the Information/Medical Liability & Release form.**
- 4. Register Online starting April 10th.**
 - a. Full payment can be made online.
- 5. Return all forms to the student ministry office.**
 - a. Please include \$50 deposit or payment for full amount can be made on the online registration. Checks should be written to "*Friendswood UMC,*" with your child's name and the word "CONVERGE" in the memo line.

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friendswood methodist church

CONVERGE/student membership

CONFIRMATION: According to United Methodist Church, “confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment, publicly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation.” Stated another way, “youth will profess their faith, commit themselves to a life of discipleship, and be confirmed.” In this, “confirmation is both a human act of commitment and the gracious action of the Holy Spirit strengthening and empowering discipleship.” At Friendswood Methodist, we spend part of 7th grade year preparing for this response. We call time of intentional preparation, CONVERGE.

CONVERGE: Seventh grade students spend time learning AND practicing what it means to be a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ; someone who belongs to, believes in, and becomes like Jesus Christ. We learn AND practice this through attendance on Sunday morning small groups, Sunday evening Kingdom Worship Service, and special events. Each student will spend time with a small group (5 peers, 1 student leader, and 1 adult leader) learning AND practicing to be a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ, together.

PARTICIPANTS: We offer CONVERGE to students enrolled in 7th grade, and whose parents are, or plan on becoming, members of Friendswood Methodist Church. For students older than 7th grade, we offer an alternative process for student membership. Students and families who attend other churches are discouraged from participating fully in CONVERGE, as we are striving to create life-long disciples of Jesus Christ who are actively engaged in the ministries of our congregation. If you have questions or concerns about participation in CONVERGE, please contact the Director of Student Ministries, so that we can discuss options that are available to your family.

TIME COMMITMENT: Confirmation runs from August through January. Regular attendance on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and for special events is expected. In addition, families are asked to attend worship regularly, and volunteer with CONVERGE programs and events as able. Please see the 2018-2019 CONVERGE schedule for more detailed information on dates and times.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT: The first request we have of parents is to make your family's involvement in church a priority. CONVERGE is designed to model what our church feels a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ does. If you make this a priority, and model it for your child, the impact on his or her life will be much greater. We ask parents to attend at least one service event with your child and consider helping with dinner during the year. In addition, parents are asked to consider volunteering to be a small group leader. We need 12+ adults who are willing to make a weekly commitment, and many more willing to volunteer. Please see the CONVERGE Volunteer Form for more details.

PARTICIPATION FEES: We have combined the majority * of costs associated with CONVERGE into one flat-fee of \$200.00/student. This allows us to purchase program materials, provide for each student an NLT teen study Bible, class t-shirt and the fall retreat. You may pay this amount in full at registration or in installments. This is a flat fee, and there are no refunds for missed events, as we expect everyone to attend all events. **A word about fees:** we never want money to be a reason for families/students not participating in events; financial assistance is available upon request. Please contact the student ministry office for more details.

* There may be small group events that your child participates in where a minimal amount of money is needed for things like snow cones, ice cream, or a fast-food meal. These instances will be kept to a minimum, however.

FRIENDS: We have found that small groups are most effective, when the students are with their friends. We ask that you list several of your child's closest friends (that will be participating in CONVERGE) on the registration form, to help us in creating our groups. If you are new to the church, don't worry. We will put your child with a group that best matches their interests and school. In addition, students are welcome to invite their non-member friends to church. Due to the nature of CONVERGE, however, only students whose families are/intend to become members of Friendswood UMC should participate on a "full-time" basis.

THE PROGRAM: CONVERGE includes Sunday morning participation, Kingdom Worship on Sunday evenings, Small Group events, worship opportunities, mission events, and Spring retreat. Your student's small group (5 peers, 1 student leader, and 1 adult leader) is at the core of almost everything we do. As the year progresses, they will become closer as they share together in the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. One goal of our student ministry is to see 7th grade small groups continue through high school graduation.

SMALL GROUPS: The most successful small groups have several similar characteristics. They include 4-6 students, which is enough to create energy, but not too many for anyone to get "lost." Group members share a common bond, whether they are already friends, or have things in common and become friends. Finally, they are committed to each other. Successful groups are those in which students desire to grow together, and see CONVERGE as part of their life, rather than something they have to do for a few months.

LARGE GROUP: Throughout the year, we will meet on 13 Sunday afternoons. During this time, we discuss the basics of our Christian faith, including: the importance of scripture, major creeds and Christian doctrine, and church (universal) and United Methodist church history. A typical Large Group includes teaching, small group discussion time, as well as an activity designed to foster group relationships.

WHY CONFIRMATION ISN'T JUST A 4 WEEK CLASS: We believe that being a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ takes more than one hour on Sunday morning. We have seen over and over that *students, and families, who are committed to worship, grow, serve, and invite, experience the life-changing power of Jesus Christ everywhere and every day.* Year after year, families tell us how great the CONVERGE year was for their students. Having said that, involvement in CONVERGE is voluntary. If this is more than what your family is able to commit to, your child can participate in our alternate student ministry options during their 7th grade year.

BAPTISM: Your child may or may not be baptized, and that is okay. The Service of Confirmation (January 27th, 2019) will include baptism for those who have not yet been baptized. If your child has been baptized (in any Christian church or Christian tradition) we affirm and accept this baptism.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: CONVERGE ends on Confirmation Sunday, January 27th, 2019 at the 11:05 am service. Each student will kneel, and with the hands of the pastor placed on them, they will be confirmed and welcomed into the active community of the church. They will answer, in unison, questions which all Confirmands in the Methodist church are asked. This is a wonderful day in the life of our church that is shared with friends and relatives.

COMMUNICATION: We send a weekly e-newsletter to everyone. In addition, major events are put in the church bulletin. We will also send out reminders through a texting service, as well as sending information home with students following large group. It is imperative that you receive the CONVERGE e-newsletter, so upon registration you will be automatically added to the distribution list.

QUESTIONS: Contact our Associate Director of Student Ministries, Adrienne Harrell, at 281.482.7535, adrienne@friendswoodmethodist.org, Director of Student Ministries, Cole Hermes, cole@friendswoodmethodist.org, or Debbie Bass at 281-757-2223 or imabass2@comcast.net

CONVERGE Covenant

Student Agreement

CONVERGE is about learning AND practicing what it means to be a fully-devoted follower of Jesus Christ. I am choosing to participate that I may grow in my faith, and become more like Jesus Christ. I understand this is a process that takes both time and involvement in different aspects of the church. Therefore, I will:

- Make CONVERGE a priority in my life.
- Attend all CONVERGE activities to the best of my ability.
- When unable to attend, I will let my leader know.
- Regularly attend Sunday morning worship.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Agreement

I will support, encourage, and guide my child throughout CONVERGE. As a visible sign of my support, we will regularly attend Sunday morning activities at Friendswood UMC. In addition, we will make every effort to structure our family schedule so that CONVERGE is a priority. Finally, understanding that, as a rule, children find important the things that their parents find important, we will make every effort to model Christ's importance in our life as well by:

- Attending one mission/service event with my child's group
- Attending one Sunday evening worship with my child's group
- Participating in nightly check-in time with my son/daughter (forms provided)

Signature

Signature

Date

Please return, signed, along with your registration, to the Student Ministry Office.

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FRIENDSWOOD Methodist Church
PERSONAL INFORMATION and MEDICAL/LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____ PRESENT GRADE _____ BIRTH DATE ____/____/____
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF FRIENDSWOOD METHODIST CHURCH? () YES () NO

PARENT/EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

MOTHER'S NAME _____ CELL PHONE (_____) _____
MOTHER'S EMAIL _____ WORK PHONE (_____) _____
FATHER'S NAME _____ CELL PHONE (_____) _____
FATHER'S EMAIL _____ WORK PHONE (_____) _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT _____
PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____ RELATIONSHIP _____

HEALTH INFORMATION

HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY _____
POLICY/GROUP NUMBER _____ PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____
POLICY HOLDER _____ POLICY HOLDER PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

ALLERGIES (including food & medication) _____

OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS _____

CURRENT MEDICATIONS or OTHER MEDICAL INFO (attach addtl. sheets as needed): _____

PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE

LIABILITY, MEDICAL, AND PRESS RELEASE

I give consent for my child, _____, to participate in the events and programs of Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry, including those on and off the campus of Friendswood Methodist Church. Further, I give consent for my child to be transported to and from events and programs by any responsible parties approved by Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry, its officers, agents, employees, trustees, and volunteers.

I recognize that certain hazards and dangers are inherent in the events and programs, and required travel, of Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry. I acknowledge that although Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry has taken safety measures to minimize the risk of injury to participants, Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry cannot guarantee that the participants, equipment, premises, and/or activities will be free from hazards, accidents, and/or injuries.

In consideration of Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry accepting and permitting my child to participate in this trip, I agree that Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry, a non-profit organization, its agents, officers, employees, trustees, and volunteers will not be liable for any injury, death, damage and/or loss to my child, and/or anyone claiming on my child's behalf, and I further agree to hold harmless, indemnify and defend Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry, its officers, agents, employees, trustees, and volunteers for and from any and all damage during the trip, whether such injury, illness, or damage occurs on or off the church premises.

I authorize any of Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry agents, officers, employees, trustees, or volunteers to obtain any medical attention and/or treatment for my child that may be needed.

I authorize photos and/or videos of my child participating in Friendswood Methodist Church and Kingdom Student Ministry events or programs may be reproduced and utilized in promotional materials for the Church.

I have listed above any and all special medical problems concerning my son/daughter and have taken the opportunity to discuss these problems with one or more of the adult leaders working with my child. I have attached a copy of my Student's Insurance Card if applicable.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (signed) _____

DATED: Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____

CONVERGE/high school leader Student Application

NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

PHONE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

EMAIL: _____

Why do you want to be a CONVERGE small group leader?

Are you/your family members of Friendswood Methodist Church? _____ Yes _____ No

Which worship service do you regularly attend? 8:30 9:45 11:05 (circle one)

If you attend Kingdom Small Groups (Sunday AM), which do you regularly attend? 9:45 11:05

Do you attend Kingdom Worship (Sunday PM)? _____ Yes _____ No

What other church programs are you involved in? choir bells orchestra other: _____

What extra-curricular activities are you involved in? _____

If you have a job, where and how many hours do you work? _____

CONVERGE meets Sunday afternoons 4:45, as well as at other times as indicated on the calendar, for Mission opportunities, Worship, and special small group events. High School Leaders are expected to make the same commitment as the adult leaders and the 7th grade students.

By turning in this application, you are agreeing to make CONVERGE (and your small group) one of the priorities in your life and attend CONVERGE events, to the best of your ability throughout the next year.

Please return this to the Student Ministry office or call Debbie Bass at 281-757-2223 for more information.

Updated 4/10/2018