

## **Public profession of faith at Georgetown | frequently asked questions**

### **What is public profession of faith?**

Public profession of faith is the practice of making public, before the church body, your belief in Jesus Christ and your trust in the truths of the bible. You tell the world you embrace the promises of God made at your baptism and your commitment to share in the life of the church and join with other Christians in doing the work of the Lord.

### **Why should I make public profession of faith?**

There are a number of reasons. First, the Holy Spirit works in our lives to draw us to the love of Jesus Christ and we respond with acceptance and joy, not just privately, but with other believers as well. Second, we want to commit to the Church. We want to be active participants with other believers to be agents of love and change in this world and also to receive the love and support of the Church.

### **How old do I have to be to make public profession of faith?**

Persons of any age who love the Lord, trust in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and want to commit to the Church are invited to publicly profess their faith.

### **How do I make public profession of faith?**

1. Share your desire to make profession of faith with a pastor or church leader.
2. Meet with a pastor and/or church leader to share your faith. You might also have conversation about the basics of the faith and church teaching. It is helpful to write down some of your thoughts, we often call this a faith expression (more on this below).
3. Meet with a couple of the elders to share your faith expression
4. Schedule a time in a worship service to profess your faith
5. Answer four questions in the worship service (see reverse), and, if you are able, share some of your faith expression.

Note: Going Public is a special program designed for young people of middle school/pre-teen age that wraps all these elements in to one package.

### **What could I include in my faith expression?**

Your personal story and journey of faith. This might include:

- Significant people who have influenced you
- Important events that have shaped your life
- Special moments that have increased your trust in God
- The influence of your parents, friends, teachers, and pastors
- Your experiences of God in your devotional life, your journey with God through prayer and scripture reading, and your love for Christ's Church

Perhaps the overarching question is: How did you get to this point in your life where you are wanting to make profession of faith?

**Does Georgetown require that I make profession of faith before I receive communion?**

No

However, it may be the practice of your family to wait to participate in the sacrament until you have made public profession of faith.

If you have not made public profession of faith and receive communion, consider how the sacrament helps you connect with the good news of Jesus and how the Holy Spirit might be nudging you toward a deeper relationship with God and the church.

**Is public profession of faith the last time I'll profess my faith?**

Far from it. Public profession of faith is just one of many times you may be sharing your faith. Some expressions will have happened before your public profession of faith and many more will happen after. As a body of believers we are always telling our stories and the story of the Good News of God's love and salvation.

**Will I make public profession of faith by myself or will there be other people with me?**

It depends.

We often invite people at regular intervals to make public profession of faith and if more than one person responds, we will invite all persons to do it at the same time. However, if only one person desires to profess their faith at a certain time there will be only one person.

**What are the questions that I'll be asked when I make public profession of faith?**

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent to redeem the world, do you love and trust him as the one who saves you from your sin, and do you with repentance and joy embrace him as Lord of your life? *Answer: I do*
2. Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God revealing Christ and his redemption, and that the confessions of this church faithfully reflect this revelation? *Answer: I do*
3. Do you accept the gracious promises of God sealed to you in your baptism and do you affirm your union with Christ and his church which your baptism signifies? *Answer: I do*
4. Do you promise to do all you can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen your love and commitment to Christ by sharing faithfully in the life of the church, honoring and submitting to its authority; and do you join with the people of God in doing the work of the Lord everywhere? *Answer: I do*