



Dear Georgetown Families,

This spring we are inviting and encouraging all students and young adults who have not yet made public profession of faith to do so by participating in Going Public.

It goes without saying that we had to adapt in many ways over the last year and Going Public will be no different. We want to make the process as accessible, simple, customized, safe, and engaging as possible. For these reasons Going Public will look a little different this year. We are inviting you to engage a guided, "independent study" style program. This will give you the most flexibility and freedom while still embracing the two main "anchors" of the program: engagement with a Faith Friend mentor and the composition of a Faith Expression.

Here is an overview:

- Going Public will be expanded and all middle school, high school, and young adults will receive invitations and encouragements to participate.
- Between now and April 17, indicate that you would like to be part of the program. Doing this does not commit you to making profession of faith, it only gets the Going Public ball rolling.
- After you "sign-up", Eric will send course booklets for the student and Faith Friend. These booklets will contain information about the program, lessons, discussion questions, journaling questions, a Faith Expression prompt, and follow-up meeting guides. All the materials the pairings need to talk, reflect, and write will be in the booklet.
- When you receive the booklet, you can choose and arrange for any Faith Friend you prefer. It can be a parent, brother or sister, grandparent, family friend, or church member. The student and Faith Friend can engage the booklet and material in their own way and with their own timing. You can choose one long meeting or a series of meetings. You can choose to meet in person or over Zoom. As this will happen outside of the church campus context, parents should be mindful of safety practices for their children.
- If the student completes the course booklet and Faith Expression prompt and wishes to make public profession of faith, the student, Faith Friend, and family are invited to a special capstone dinner and conversation time with the Elders on Wednesday, May 5 at 6:00pm at the Kuperus Barn (4374 64th Ave. Zeeland, MI, 49464). We will eat together and have small groups where students can share their Faith Expression with the Elders and have conversation about their journey with their Faith Friend.
- After the Elder capstone dinner, students can choose either May 16 or June 6 to make public profession of faith in the morning worship service. They will answer to the "four questions" and share their faith expression with the congregation.

We are very excited about this opportunity for students and are hopeful many will participate! It's good for all of us to profess our faith throughout our lives. We pray this process not only leads to an "official" public profession of faith, but a lifetime of claiming the promises of Jesus as the hope for our lives.

Eric

GOING PUBLIC

Between now
and April 17

Review the information in this letter and “sign up” with Eric by emailing ericd@georgetowncrc.org

After sign-up

Select and arrange for a Faith Friend.
Let Eric know who it will be.

Before May
5

Meet with the Faith Friend to complete the booklet.
Choose a format and times that work best for you.
Compose your Faith Expression as the final part of the course.

Wednesday,
May 5

Attend the Capstone dinner with you Faith Friend and parents. Eat and have conversation with Elders, sharing your Faith Expression with them.

May 16 or
June 6

Choose either date to make public profession of faith in the morning worship service.

The four public profession of faith questions:

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?
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?
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?
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?



Frequently asked questions:

Q: Who can be my child's Faith Friend? Does church have to approve or set that up?

A: The Faith Friend can be anyone your family would like and who is willing to serve in that role. It can be a parent, grandparent, sibling, or a family friend. It doesn't even need to be limited to one person. Church does not need to approve or make arrangements with that person since the program is so flexible. Your family should take the meeting safety precautions that are appropriate.

We do ask that when you decide and make arrangements, you let Eric know who it will be.

Q: We don't have anyone in mind for a Faith Friend. Can you help us make a connection?

A: Yes. Pastor Marc, the staff, and I would be delighted to make recommendations and help your family find a good fit.

Q: I don't want to do this by myself. Who else is making profession of faith?

A: It's impossible to know right now who will sign up, however I have received a lot of interest this spring. There are more people who are interested because we did not have it last spring and also because we are inviting older students and young adults to participate as well.

Of course, you are welcome to talk to friends and congregants and invite them to participate as well!

Q: We are not available for the Elder dinner and/or the worship services, can we still participate?

A: Yes. If circumstances demand, we will accommodate alternate meeting times or worship service opportunities.

Q: I have concerns about my child participating in a service that is livestreamed. Can you alter how the service is presented?

A: Yes. We can pause or stop the video and/or audio streams at certain times to accommodate concerns.

Q: My child doesn't feel comfortable in front of church, do they have to share with the congregation?

A: All students must respond to the "four questions", however if a Faith Friend would like to read the Faith Expression for the student, that is completely appropriate.