



Confirmation and Reception October 2015

Dear Diocesan Clergy,

I am being asked regularly what our policies are concerning reception and confirmation.

I am including below an ACNA link and its information that changes some of what we have said or done before.

The bottom line is that we now are receiving, with the laying on of hands, people who have made adult professions elsewhere, including in The Episcopal Church. I would encourage that new members formerly from TEC be received as we move forward.

Sometimes people don't remember their confirmation. I had a vestry member who served almost his full term thinking he had been confirmed. His mother at the end of his term mentioned to me that his brother had been confirmed but that he had been sick that day and missed it. If people aren't sure, or desire to be confirmed because they are not confident about what they believed when they were confirmed, we will allow them to be confirmed rather than received.

One of the reasons for the change is that some Catholic and Orthodox churches have allowed priests/presbyters to confirm.

Those who have made adult confessions of faith may now be received, including those baptized as adults in other churches.

In all cases, we will now lay hands on those being received as well as those being confirmed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

In Jesus the Messiah,
+Neil

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http://anglicanchurch.net/?/main/texts_for_common_prayer#faqvol2

Preface to Confirmation: Is Confirmation expected of every adult believer?

Yes. Confirmation, or its equivalent in Reception or Reaffirmation, is expected of every member of the Anglican Church. An adult profession of the Faith is expected of every member of the Church, and these rites are the liturgical expression of that profession. Moreover, the laying on of hands by a bishop at the time of this profession is a truly Anglican expression of an apostolic action manifest in Holy Scripture.

Reception Redefined: Why is Reception re-defined?

Historically, reception was limited to those confirmed in Catholic and Orthodox churches. Because confirmation has become overwhelmingly presbyteral in those traditions (and is presbyteral in the Protestant churches) – thus neglecting the laying on of hands by a bishop – the College of Bishops has chosen to emphasize an adult confession of the Faith in any other Christian church as the doorway to reception in the Anglican Church in North America, mandating that all receptions be accompanied by the laying on of hands by the Bishop.