Prayers of Youth at Confirmation

At Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Shaker Heights, Ohio, youth write prayers that reflect their relationship to God and to the congregation. Where some congregations may have youth write creeds, statements of faith, or other belief statements, a prayer is a powerful testimony of transformation that may occur in the lives of young people. At the conclusion of nine months of confirmation preparation, in solitude on a retreat, the youth write their prayers. The confirmation worship celebration is built around the prayers. As each prayer is read by a particular young person, the prayers become the prayers of the entire congregation.

The following prayer is an example. It was prayed by ninth-grader Carrie Coverdale, confirmed at Plymouth in May 2004.

Dear God,

Today is a great day. I can feel your presence in the sunshine, the wind, and in my heart. I know you are with me, holding my hand, keeping me from falling. I know you will be with me tomorrow, and the next day, and as far into my future as you carry me. On the day I was born, we embarked on a journey, you and I, one that will last a lifetime. We’ve hit potholes, roadblocks, construction, and detours, but ultimately, we’ve come to a place, together, where we can grow and develop a relationship.

We’ve had help along the way. You’ve given me so much to believe in and so many who believe in me. You’ve helped these people lead me to a quiet place where you are waiting for me. There I received from you a strong faith, a loving family, and a wonderful community of supporters who have watched and guided me as I developed into who I am.

I realize, at this turning point in my faith, one thing—that I want you in my life. I need you in my life. I know our journey will never end, as long as we continue on it together.

Amen.