

Going Public

Dear Congregation,

Many middle school/pre-teen aged members of our congregation find that they are ready to make their public profession of faith. In order to encourage and support them, we offer an opportunity specifically designed for children of this age called Going Public. We are excited to once again offer this program.

Students will be introduced to Going Public and encouraged to participate at both **Turning Point** and **Cross Training**.

You can find a complete information package about the program at the welcome center.

There are two major components that are key to the Going Public experience. First, each student is partnered with an adult mentor called a **Faith Friend**. Faith Friends are mature Christians who work to develop a relationship with the student and serve as a mentor. The Faith Friend helps the student learn the important tenants of the faith, assists them in giving voice to their faith through the composition of a Faith Expression, and continues to counsel the student in the year that follows.

The **Faith Expression**, the second major component of Going Public, is a way the student communicates to the church what they believe and why they are ready to claim Jesus publicly.

Going Public embraces these two components by hosting an **overnight retreat**. This year the retreat will be **April 30 – May 1** at **Camp Geneva**. The retreat is important in a number of ways:

- It gives depth to the Faith Friend/student relationship by allowing for additional activities and interactions (meals, games, one-on-one prayer times, cabin time, etc.).
- The extended time allows students the opportunity to partner with their Faith Friends and compose a Faith Expression with care and depth.
- It removes students from their normal routine and surroundings and creates a distinct experience tied to their profession.
- The extended time allows for more relaxed and in-depth educational sessions.

As a member of Georgetown we invite you to participate in the following ways:

1. If there is a young person in your life who is considering profession of faith, encourage them to explore Going Public.
2. Invite them to, or join them in attending, the **informational meeting on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30 pm in the Library.**
3. Be a Faith Friend. If you are interested, please contact **Eric (ericd@georgetowncrc.org or 616.218.7456)** to let him know you would be open to serving in this way.
4. Pray for young people to take this step, and, as they do, support them with your prayers, attention, and love.
5. Share your support and congratulations when students make their profession

Thank you,

Eric DeYoung