

## JOIN US AT TRINITY

We often get asked what needs to happen in order to join Trinity. The short answer is that you just need to show up! We welcome anyone and everyone, no matter where you may be on your spiritual journey, to join us for worship or at any of our activities. We understand that first and foremost, membership in the Church means being a part of a community that is drawn ever more deeply into relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

However, there can be more to it than that. For those who are interested in making a formal commitment of membership in the Episcopal Church, and Trinity in particular, here is a brief summary of how the Episcopal Church defines the terms of membership. If you still have questions after reading this, please feel free to reach out to any of our members or our Priest and we'd be happy to talk to you more about it or fill out a visitor card found in the pews and put it in the collection plate during the offertory.

Who is a Christian? A Christian is any person who has been baptized in the Episcopal Church or any other Christian Church in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



What is Baptism? The sacrament of Baptism is the initiation rite into the Christian Church. To be Baptized as an infant, child, or adult is to become a full member of the Church with access to the sacraments.

Who may receive Communion? At Trinity, and throughout the Episcopal Church, any baptized Christian, regardless of age or denomination, is welcome to receive Communion.

Who is a member of the Episcopal Church? A person is a member of the Episcopal Church if they have been baptized, whether in an Episcopal church or another Christian church, and the baptism has been recorded in the records of a particular Episcopal parish. A person may also become a member of the Episcopal Church if they are Confirmed or Received by a bishop.

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is a sacrament of the Church. It is an informed profession of the faith that may be made by teenagers or adults. To be Confirmed is to outwardly proclaim your choice of the Episcopal faith and tradition. It involves the laying on of hands upon the head of the individual Confirmand by the bishop.

What does it mean to be "Received" into the Episcopal Church? If you have been Confirmed in another liturgical tradition (such as Roman Catholic, Lutheran, or Orthodox) you are Received into the Church rather than Confirmed. A person is Received into the Episcopal Church by a bishop.

Why officially join the Episcopal Church? We believe that God speaks to people in a variety of ways and that no one particular expression of the faith is "right." For Episcopalians, this way of relating to the divine balances scripture, tradition, and reason. The Episcopal Church is a sacramental and liturgical form

of Christianity that respects the ancient nature of the church yet allows room for a prayerful discussion of theology

What is a Letter of Transfer? If you are a member of another Episcopal parish and would like to transfer your membership to Trinity, please contact the parish office (203-275-1503) and let us know. We have a special form that we send to your former parish that transfers your membership to Trinity.

Who is a member of Trinity? An “official” member of Trinity is a baptized person who requests to be placed on the membership roll of this parish. If you are Baptized, Confirmed, or Received at Trinity, you automatically become a member.

What if I don’t want to officially join the Episcopal Church or Trinity? That’s fine. We consider our parish family to be a wide net of individual beliefs and situations and while we encourage people to seriously consider official membership, it is not a requirement to partake in the life of the parish. According to the canons of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT), the only thing non-members may not do at the parish level is serve on the Vestry, vote at any parish meeting, or serve as a chalice bearer.



Is the Parish Directory an official roster of parish members? No. The Parish Directory is an unofficial list of people who attend Trinity on a regular basis. It is never fully complete or up-to-date since people join the parish, move, or leave at various times and for a variety of reasons. The directory is published annually and updated regularly. If you would like to be included or amend your entry, please contact the parish office.

What about pledging? Giving money is not a requirement for membership at Trinity. Members are expected to give of their time, talent, and treasure as they are able. We firmly believe that stewardship of our financial resources is an integral part of being a Christian and we rely on the generosity of our parish to support our common ministry and pay our bills. Episcopal churches do not receive financial assistance from the National Church or their Diocese. In fact, it is quite the opposite: we pay a yearly apportionment to the ECCT to support the mission and ministry of the larger church.



What is expected of members of Trinity? We expect members of this parish

to strive to lead a life of faith. This means sharing the joy of corporate worship as regularly as possible; recognizing that God is the source of all that we are and all that we do; being tolerant of one another and respect the dignity of every human being; understanding that we don’t have all the answers about

faith but we are always seeking to learn from God and one another; offering of ourselves to the church through our talents, time, and financial resources; helping to spread the message of Christ's love in whatever way is possible to you.