



Do you have questions about the Episcopal Church including baptism, how a different denomination relates and other similar things? Check out these FAQ's.

Do I belong at Trinity Episcopal Church?

The answer to that question is always, “Absolutely!” While some members of Trinity Episcopal Church are comfortable with an informal affiliation with a church, some others may want to take the next step in becoming official members of the parish community. If you’re feeling called to be involved more deeply in the life of Trinity Episcopal Church, please contact the church office to make an appointment with Pastor Rachel. The discussion of membership in the Episcopal Church can be confusing, since it depends on the individual’s faith journey and particular history of membership with other traditions or congregations. Here are a few questions that you may be asking yourself:

What if I’ve never been baptized?

Answer: You would enter the Episcopal Church through Baptism – To become a Christian and a member of the Episcopal Church, one is typically baptized. Baptism is the official ‘entry’ into the church, the Body of Christ. Being baptized in any Episcopal Church makes you an Episcopalian. Being baptized at Trinity Episcopal Church makes you an Episcopalian and a member of Trinity.

What if I was baptized in a different denomination?

Answer: You would enter the Episcopal Church through confirmation. Confirmation is the service in which persons ‘express a mature commitment to Christ.’ Those who were baptized without laying on of hands by a bishop may recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism and receive laying on of hands by a bishop. One does not need to be baptized twice, however. Your baptism is recognized in the Episcopal Church as long as the baptism was recorded in the rolls of any Christian denomination (Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, etc.).

What if I was baptized and confirmed in another denomination?

Answer: If you were baptized in a Christian tradition that recognizes “apostolic succession,” would enter the Episcopal Church through **Reception**. For example, if you’ve already been baptized and confirmed in another denomination such as the Roman Catholic, the Lutheran Church, Orthodox tradition, or the Methodist Church, you can become a member of the Episcopal Church by being received. This is done at a service during which the bishop lays hands on you and says, “We . . . receive you into the fellowship of this communion.” However, if you were baptized in a faith other than those listed above [i.e. traditions that do not recognize apostolic succession as a core belief/practice], then you would be a candidate for **Confirmation** in The Episcopal Church. This is done at a service during which the bishop lays hands on you and says, “We....confirm you into the fellowship of this communion.”

What if I was baptized in the Episcopal Church, but not at Trinity?

Answer: You would enter the Episcopal Church through a formal **Letter of Transfer** – A Letter of Transfer is a way to transfer your membership from one Episcopal Church to another Episcopal Church. You are a member of the Episcopal Church in which you were baptized unless you’ve requested your membership be transferred. If an Episcopalian has moved to several Episcopal Churches over the course of his/her life, a Transfer Letter must be requested at each new Church in order for your membership to be moved. With a few details, the parish administrator can handle this transfer for you.

Reaffirmation

Once you’ve been baptized and confirmed, you may choose to publically reaffirm your commitment to God. Reaffirmation may take place at any point in your journey. **Reaffirmation** happens in the presence of a bishop and affirms your commitment to live according to your baptismal promises. The important thing to remember is that, for whatever reason God has led you to Trinity (outreach projects, a meal, a concert, a quiet place to pray), you belong here and we will do everything we can to support you, wherever you may be on your journey. *[Continued on other side]*

Are there certain days when I can get baptized?

Yes. At Trinity Episcopal, we ask that all adults who wish to become full members participate in the Catechumenal Process. This is an extended period of instruction, meditation, prayer and formation. Opportunities for adult/youth/infant Baptisms occur on specific days during the church year: the Easter Vigil, the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints' Day, on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, and at the time of the bishop's visit. For a list of the calendar dates of these opportunities within a given year, please contact our church office at 425-252-4129.

NOTE: Adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation or Reception into The Episcopal Church are required to participate in our 8-part educational series, "Episcopal 101," which is offered at Trinity in the first quarter of every year.

To register for the 2018 Episcopal 101 course, please contact the church office. The course schedule is as follows:

Episcopal 101: The History, Polity and Faith of The Episcopal Church

Description: This 8-Part Series was designed as an introduction to the unique history, polity and tenets of faith that characterize The Episcopal Church. Whether you are a "cradle" Episcopalian, new to the church or considering an adult commitment to the Episcopal faith, this series is open to all inquirers (age 16 and up). This series is REQUIRED for anyone seeking reception or confirmation in The Episcopal Church, in preparation for Trinity's visitation by The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel (the Bishop of our diocese) that **will take place on Trinity Sunday, May 27, 2018.**

Schedule of Meetings

This group will meet on certain Wednesdays and Sundays at the following times, 90 minutes each

- April 11, Wed at 7:00 pm Introduction and Background (Early Church History)
- April 18, Wed at 7:00 pm Culture and Religion (The Anglican Reformation)
- April 22, Sun at 12:00 pm Colony and Communion (The Church in America)
- April 25, Wed at 7:00 pm The Shape of Decision Making (Polity and Governance of TEC)
- April 29, Sun at 12:00 pm Identity and Expression (The Book of Common Prayer)
- May 9, Wed at 7:00 pm With This We Pray (Anglican/Episcopal Worship)
- May 13, Sun at 12:00 pm The Issues of Our Time (Social & Environmental Justice/Advocacy in TEC)
- May 16, Wed at 7:00 pm The True Occasion of Unity (Instructed Eucharist, Living Generational Theology)
- [May 26, Sat at 10:00 am A Make Up and Q&A Session, Required for those being Received or Confirmed]

