

How Can I become a Member of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church?

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Holy Comforter. We would love to have you join our church family!

1. The Episcopal Church recognizes as Christians all persons who have been baptized with water and in the name of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). If you have been baptized, regardless of which denomination you were baptized in, then you are already a member of the universal Church. You do not need to be baptized again. If you haven't yet been baptized, then that will be your first step toward becoming a member here.
2. If you were baptized into the universal Church in an Episcopal congregation, then you were automatically enrolled as a member of that particular congregation and are also an Episcopalian. You are considered a member of the church where you were baptized until death or until you transfer to another congregation. So, if you were baptized at Holy Comforter, then you are already a baptized member here. If you were baptized in a different Episcopal congregation then, in order to become a member here, you will need to ask for your record of your baptism to be transferred to Holy Comforter.
3. If you were not baptized in an Episcopal church but in another Christian communion or denomination, then you can ask for your letter of baptism to be transferred here so that you can be enrolled on the books of this congregation. By doing so, you will be considered a baptized member of the Episcopal Church in general and a member of Holy Comforter specifically.
4. All baptized members are encouraged to receive the sacramental rite of Confirmation, either when they reach maturity or in connection with Baptism if they are baptized as adults. In Confirmation, we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. After Confirmation, a person is considered a confirmed member. All adults (18 years of age and older) who are confirmed members and communicants in good standing (faithful in attending corporate worship and in praying, working, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God) may vote at our Annual Meetings, run for the Vestry, and represent the congregation in the diocese.
5. If you have already been baptized and confirmed in another denomination (e.g., Roman Catholic, Lutheran, or Orthodox), then you may be *received* (rather than reconfirmed) by a bishop of The Episcopal Church. This makes you a confirmed member of The Episcopal Church.

We hope this answers some of your questions and we encourage you to be in touch. You are most welcome at Holy Comforter!