



## EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

**Membership** in the Episcopal Church comes through Baptism and Confirmation. Becoming a member of St. Philip's can happen in several ways, depending on your experience with either other Episcopal congregations or other denominations. However, you do not need any prior church affiliation to become a member of our church.

### ST. PHILIP'S MEMBERSHIP

**Prospective members:** These are persons who are visiting our church and are deciding whether to become a Confirmed or Baptized member.

**Associate members:** These are persons who are active in the life of this congregation (through worship, giving or program participation), but their official membership remains elsewhere.

**Baptized Members:** These include baptized persons, of any age (including children), whose names are enrolled either by baptism, letter of transfer or personal request. Adults can have their names enrolled as Baptized Members, but still not be Confirmed Communicants. If you are an adult and have been baptized in an Episcopal or other Christian denomination, simply ask in the church office to request a letter of transfer from your last parish and you can be enrolled as a member.

**Confirmed Communicants:** These are adults (persons over 16 years of age) who have been baptized and confirmed in, or received into, the Episcopal Church either by confirmation, reception or letter of transfer from another Episcopal Church. If you are coming from another Episcopal Church, simply request the church office send a request for a letter of transfer from your last parish and you can be enrolled as a member.

**OUR VISION:** Rooted in God's word and guided by Christ's example, St. Philip's Episcopal Church is a loving, inclusive community committed to living out Christ's commandments.

**OUR MISSION:** Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and informed by Scripture, tradition and reason, we:

- † Learn and teach by word and example how God continues to be at work in the world and in our lives;
- † Love and serve all people as Christ loves us;
- † Grow in faithful stewardship of the resources God has given us; and
- † Joyfully celebrate this faith in our life, worship, prayer and service.

FAQ's about membership:

#### **Why become a member?**

While everyone is welcome at St. Philip's and invited to participate in the life of our community, becoming a member is an outward sign of commitment that formally joins you and your family with us in this congregation. Membership does bring some additional benefits, but more importantly is a statement that you intend to become part of the congregation in a deeper and more meaningful way. Only baptized members in good standing can vote in the annual meeting, and only confirmed communicants in good standing can be elected to the Vestry, represent the congregation in the Diocese, have your or a family member's wedding at St. Philip's, or buy a burial plot in our cemetery.

#### **What if I have never been baptized?**

Adults and their children may join St. Philip's by being baptized. You can find out more about baptism by talking to one of the clergy.

#### **Do I need to be confirmed to be a member?**

Not necessarily. To be a member in good standing in an Episcopal Church, you must be confirmed, attend and give regularly, and actively join in the life of the church. But anyone can attend services, receive communion and participate in programs and classes without being confirmed.

#### **What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation is a sacramental rite that enables adults, persons over 16 years of age, to make their own profession of faith and be formally received into the Episcopal Church. Confirmation is held when the Bishop visits our parish. You may also be confirmed at one of the Diocesan Confirmations.

#### **What if I have been confirmed in another denomination?**

If you have made an adult profession of faith in another Christian denomination, you may be received into the Episcopal Church. This is also done when the Bishop visits each year. Need more information? Contact the church office for details.

#### **Joining St. Philip's:**

If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Philip's please contact the the church office at philipi@comporium.net to receive a membership form. After we receive your completed form, we will contact you to discuss your options for membership and make a plan together that meets your interests and needs.



256 East Main Street  
Brevard, NC 28712  
828-884-3666

[www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org](http://www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org)

[www.facebook.com/StPhilipsEpiscopalChurchBrevard](https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipsEpiscopalChurchBrevard)

The Rev. H. William Walker, Jr., Interim Rector

**ST. PHILIP'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH