**Becoming a Member**

People often ask, “How can I join Emmanuel?” The easiest way is to worship with us on Sundays and Wednesdays or online. If you are not a current member of the Episcopal Church then speak with the rector, Gene LeCouteur, and he can work with you to determine what is necessary. It can be as simple as being received by the bishop if you are already a baptized and confirmed member in another Christian tradition. Otherwise there might be a period of study and conversations with the rector that lead to baptism and/or confirmation. Whatever your situation you do not have to jump through lots of hoops to become a member.

If you are already a member of the Episcopal Church in another parish, we invite you to transfer your membership to Emmanuel. Let the rector or parish secretary know where you are currently a member and we can ask for a transfer of your membership from that parish to Emmanuel.

If your children have not been baptized or confirmed, the priest will be glad to meet with you to discuss these rites and how to proceed. Unlike some larger parishes that have formal programs for children, the rector meets with parents and children and develops a plan for them to learn about what baptism and confirmation mean and helps them understand the importance of the rites in their life and the life of the Church.

An additional step in membership is making a pledge to the work of the parish. The parish has some sources of income, but it relies primarily on the financial gifts of parishioners and friends. Many of our expenses are unglamorous—utilities, heat, AC, salaries, maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and so forth. These are all expenses that make it possible for us to hold worship services, provide pastoral care to those going through life stages (birth, baptisms, weddings); medical and personal crises, or needing someone to pray with; support for those in the community going through hard times; special events and services during Holy Days; and much more.

Of course you are welcome to participate in all that we offer at Emmanuel regardless of your membership status. Join a group such as Seekers or Education for Ministry that studies the life of faith. You could sing in the choir, knit with the Knitter Sisters, provide coffee hour, help maintain our garden and grounds, volunteer with the Altar Guild or one of the community groups we support…. all these and more offer rewarding and enjoyable ways to be a part of the Emmanuel community.

“We’re glad you’re here!”