Leadership Criteria

Christ Church, Georgetown

Christian leadership is modeled on that of our Lord, who came to serve rather than to be served. He expected no one to do what he himself was not prepared to do. His leadership was shown in his sacrificial commitment to his Father, his disciples and all of humanity.

A position of leadership in the Church, including as a member of the vestry or of any guild or committee, Sunday School teacher or youth leader acting in Christ Church's name, requires a commitment to the life and worship of the church. The term "position of leadership" does not include participation in Bible studies, forums or other Christian formation, or acting as a volunteer in an outreach ministry to which anyone, members and non-members alike, are most welcome to take part. All can also be called to lead as members or chairs of committees or guilds. In order to serve on a committee or guild and/or lead a committee or guild, a person must be a "communicant in good standing."

No special commitment is required of any baptized person to worship at Christ Church or to be a member of the parish. Indeed, anyone who is baptized from another Christian church or denomination can fully participate in the ordinary of our common life. We offer "New Members' Courses" at which there is an opportunity to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, but membership is open to all who are baptized. As Episcopalians, our doors are open wider than many Christian denominations, and we deliberately set a very low bar to entry. All are God's children even if they do not know it yet. All who are baptized in the name of the Trinity are full members of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and they are free to make their spiritual home here.

Leadership, however, implies a level of commitment to Christ and his particular community in this place, and this is expressed in terms of being "a communicant in good standing". This is the definition of what we mean by that here at Christ Church.

A communicant in good standing at Christ Church is defined by the vestry as:

1. Someone who is baptized and a member of the congregation of Christ Church
2. Someone who makes Christ Church their main place of worship on a Sunday, who shows a good example in regular attendance when not away, and who has firmly made his or her spiritual home here.
3. Someone who supports the mission of Christ Church as laid out in our Mission Statement.
4. Someone who, after prayer and reflection, makes a meaningful pledge of whatever he or she can afford financially, as well as giving time, talents, and service to support the ministry, life, and witness of our family of faith here.

All are welcome, all can belong and be members, and all can be called to lead as members or chairs of guilds and committees provided they are communicants in good standing. There is an additional requirement to the above in the bylaws for all Vestry members and Wardens to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church.