



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN SOUTH CAROLINA

OUR FUTURE WORK TOGETHER

Hospitality and grace

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina has reorganized and is carrying forward the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, just as generations of Episcopalians in South Carolina have done since 1789, confident that by moving forward together in unity and faith, with God's help, we will flourish.

Your participation in the life of our diocese and God's Mission is encouraged. The Episcopal Church always welcomes you!

The powerful words of a beloved bishop of South Carolina speak poignantly to us as we continue to rebuild:

"We should strive for unity, not uniformity. Uniformity is mechanical, barren, unfruitful, and unprofitable. Unity is organic, living, and capable of endless growth. If we are to be truly catholic, as Christ himself is catholic, then we must have a church broad enough to embrace within its communion every living human soul."

- The Right Reverend William Alexander Guerry (1861-1928)

"This...ministry is a way for our diocese to manifest good care of God's people, live out our Diocesan Vision, and always seek the goals of reconciliation and unity in Christ during this important time of transition."

- Bishop Skip Adams

What do I have to do to return to The Episcopal Church?

Every person who has been baptized and/or confirmed in The Episcopal Church is an Episcopalian. Parishioners who have been attending other churches are still Episcopalians, as long as they want to be. There is no formal process or action required. We mean it when we say "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You."

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

Will parishioners be forced to leave their churches?

No. The Episcopal Church and The Episcopal Church in South Carolina (TECSC) are committed to helping congregations continue to worship and serve God in their church homes, in much the same way they have done since before the split.

The main changes for a returning congregation are the following:

- (1) congregations and liturgies would be led by clergy who are in good standing with The Episcopal Church, and
- (2) parish vestries and bylaws would function in accordance with Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church again, as they did before 2012. The parishes affected by the split are like families and are important parts of the communities they serve. TECSC leadership is committed to working with each congregation to help it continue and thrive. I'd like to help our people/congregation return as an Episcopal Church.

What should I do?

Contact Fr. Bill Coyne at 843-614-0679 or wcoyne@episcopalchurchsc.org so he can arrange to meet with you to discuss options and next steps.

Fr. Coyne serves as the chief diocesan contact person for every returning parish and mission, meeting with their leaders and identifying what is needed for an orderly return to TECSC. He also will help in assessing clergy and staff needs, determining financial position, and setting up governance and bylaws in accordance with church / canon law.

Our prime goal - every congregation continues to worship on Sunday mornings without interruption through the transition period.

What does a 21st-century mission-focused congregation look like in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina?

A vital mission-minded congregation is called to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ and will be a healthy, dynamic, and inviting church, reflective of the diversity of our society, deeply rooted in faith and the gospel, so that its members live out their baptismal covenant to be disciples who make disciples and transform the world into the Reign of God.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN SOUTH CAROLINA