



Theology 101



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMMUNION

Membership Church & Belonging



"Belonging is being part of something bigger than yourself. But it's also the courage to stand alone, and to belong to yourself above all else."

-Brene Brown

What does it mean to belong?





**Pew Rents were commonplace
when Holy Communion was founded.
You belonged if you had a pew.**

Our idea of membership has shifted before

Holy Communion was one of the first "free"
churches West of the Mississippi

**"Marked as Christ's own forever."
Rite of Baptism BCP 308**

Sacramental Membership





The General Convention is one of the largest elected legislative bodies in the world.

"Membership as Governance"

- Annual Meeting
 - to vote: letter of membership, communion 3x, and "giver of record."
- Diocesan Convention (elects bishop)
- General Convention
- (No wider recognized body)



“People divorced from community, occupation, and association are first and foremost among the supporters of extremism.”

-Robert Putnam

Is Belonging Shifting?



"the restoration of the church will surely come only from a *new type of monasticism* which has nothing in common with the old but a complete lack of compromise in a life lived in accordance with the Sermon on the Mount in the discipleship of Christ. I think it is time to gather people together to do this..."

New Monasticism

- Way of Love
- Rules of Life
- Baptismal Covenant



Alternative Community

It is necessary, therefore, for the privileged and the underprivileged to work on the common environment for the purpose of providing normal experiences of fellowship. This is one very important reason for the insistence that segregation is a complete ethical and moral evil. Whatever it may do for those who dwell on either side of the wall, one thing is certain: it poisons all normal contacts of those persons involved. The first step toward love is a common sharing of a sense of mutual worth and value. This cannot be discovered in a vacuum or in a series of artificial or hypothetical relationships. It has to be in a real situation, natural, free.

-Howard Thurman, Jesus and the Disinherited



“The church does not exist to provide an ethos for democracy or any other form of social organization, but stands as a political alternative to every nation, witnessing to the kind of social life possible for those that have been formed by the story of Christ.”

-Stanley Hauerwas

How do we prioritize "belonging?"

What is the role of church in society?

What is the role of church in our own lives?

What do we give up to belong?

