

## MEMBERSHIP DEFINITIONS & HOW TO COUNT PEOPLE

**Adult** C For all statistical purposes, an adult is considered to be 16 or over.

**Attendance** C this can mean two different things:

- a. True average Sunday attendance C the parochial report asks for the average attendance for the entire year (total attendance divided by number of Sundays).
- b. Four key Sundays C The number otherwise tracked is average of the attendance on the four key Sundays as reported on the parochial report (2 low Sundays and 2 high Sundays C Advent I, Lent I, Easter and Pentecost). Although the key Sunday attendance tends to be a little higher than the yearly average, it is a constant figure in our records, and since the congregations are assessed on this, it is also probably the most accurate and honest of all the figures we get. **NOTE: The parochial report doesn't ask for this information any more. We attach a separate sheet asking for it, since our diocesan canons require the information.**

### ***Baptized Members:***

All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are members thereof. @

This means that as long as the person has been baptized somewhere, they may (by various means) enroll as a member of this particular congregation. (One can attend, sometimes for years, without formally enrolling, although this would mean ineligibility to vote.) **NOTE: this should be your largest number.**

### ***Communicants:***

All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year are to be considered communicants of this Church. @

This means that someone on the rolls (a Baptized Member) can stay minimally active by coming to church Christmas, Easter and one other time. **NOTE: this is a subset of Baptized Members, and is very likely a smaller number.**

### ***Communicants in Good Standing (CIGS):***

All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing. @

This basically counts the members who are truly active and supportive. They have to show up fairly regularly, and participate in other ways, including financially. **NOTE: this is a subset of Communicants, which is in turn a subset of Baptized Members, and is very likely a smaller number than either of those two categories.**

***Confirmed Communicant:***

This is a communicant who has either been confirmed in the Episcopal Church or received from another church. Confirmation and reception basically mean that the person has taken a mature public commitment, taken on his own baptismal vows that were made by his godparents. **NOTE: this is a subset of Communicants, and is almost certainly a smaller number.**

***Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing:***

This is a communicant in good standing who has been confirmed or received. It used to be the measure of committed membership, was pushed strongly, and was the number tracked. (Note: Several years ago, the Church made a move to be being more inclusive and attracting new membership, and changed canons and tracking methods to be only communicants in good standing. This has sometimes led to problems, since members may then never go through the instructional course leading to confirmation or reception, and may not understand their own church, or, if from another denomination, how the Episcopal Church varies from what they are used to.) **NOTE: this is a subset of Confirmed Communicants, and is very likely a smaller number. It is also very likely the smallest of all the numbers above.**

***Other Active People whose baptisms are not recorded in the Parish Register, or in another Episcopal congregation:***

These are all the people who have either never transferred their membership or are from another denomination. This means they are not members of your congregation, may not vote, may not serve on the vestry. We urge rectors to look at this category of people closely and attempt to address whatever the problem or block is. A lot of Episcopalians these days are unaware that they need to transfer -- educate them about this and make it easy for them. Some people feel they are severing old ties (another parish, another denomination -- Amy mother would have a fit if I became an Episcopalian, @ another country) -- help them to come to terms with and feel comfortable with the fact that they really are there, and that you want them to participate fully as part of the community. As noted above, those who are not Episcopalians (and even some who are) will need lessons in how the Episcopal Church differs theologically and structurally from other denominations.