

Join Us!

We at Iona-Hope invite you to join us in our various times of worship, events, small groups or other opportunities. If you wish, call our office at 239.454.4778 and schedule time to speak with us about our time together.

I want to be a member, what do I do?

The first thing to do is participate. Take your time and get to know us and let us get to know you. You may want to visit different worship services to see if one is more of a fit than the others. Attend the receptions after the service. Join as many activities as you can.

Once you begin to feel that this is the place for you, make an appointment with one of our priests and discuss this. It will be a good time to get to know them better and they will learn more about you.

What next?

We welcome baptized persons in membership at Iona-Hope. You can do this by registering your membership with us.

Is that all?

It depends on how connected you wish to be. If you were baptized in another denomination you can take the next step and be confirmed or received in The Episcopal Church by a bishop. There is a period of classes and training to prepare you for this important step. The priests can tell you more about this, including whether you will be received or confirmed.

What if I am not baptized?

Let's talk about this. Baptism is the rite of initiation into the church. It takes place in public worship and is a time when you commit to the church and the church makes commitments to you. In the midst of the vows and prayers, blessed water is poured over your head and some holy oil is used to make the sign of the cross on your forehead, marking you as Christ's own. Then, we sing a hymn of welcome.

When can i be baptized?

There are five times of the year that are the most appropriate times to be baptized. They are Easter, Pentecost, Feast of All Saints (near the first Sunday of November), Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (early January), and whenever a bishop visits. Your priest can talk with you about this.

What if I cannot be baptized on these dates?

Your priest can talk with you about this.

Will you baptize my baby?

Yes. We will baptize babies. You and the godparents will take the vows on behalf of the child. It is important to know that part of the vows involve following Christ in your actions and supporting your child continuing to learn about faith. This is best done in a congregation. For these reasons, we ask that you be active in Iona-Hope or another congregation.

When can I be confirmed or received?

This involves the presence of a bishop and are scheduled when he has his visitation at Iona-Hope. We present persons for confirmation or reception who are at least 16 years old.

I am only here during season. How can I be a member?

You can be a member through the same avenues. If you are an active member of another parish elsewhere, we will list you as a prospective or sojourner member in our system. You can participate fully in our worship and life.