Example: St. Swithin's Episcopal Church Narrative

Believing

St. Swithin's believes that Jesus is our Lord and liberator. He teaches us to love like God loves and he empowers us to love one another. We seek to live out Jesus' commandment that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind, and love our neighbor as ourselves (Mt. 22:37-39). In order to explore our beliefs and discern God's will for our parish,we gather regularly to study Scripture together and to reflect on important events in our lives, our community and our world in light of our faith.

Belonging

Members of **St. Swithin's** commit to gather frequently for worship, fellowship and formation, as well as supporting the mission and vision of our community through time, talent, and treasure. **St. Swithin's**, in turn, is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the wider Episcopal Church. Our Episcopal identity shapes our worship and we participate in Episcopal initiatives for justice and the good of the world.

We ask people who want to belong to our community to do three things before becoming a member:

- Take our 4-week "Get to know St. Swithin's" class to learn more about our community
- Connect with a seasoned member of St. Swithin's for fellowship and prayer at least 6 times (parish leadership will help to connect you with someone)
- Get engaged in at least one of our ministries for 3 months.

Behaving

At **St. Swithin's,** the way we treat one another, the way we engage in our neighborhood, and the way we care for our environment make us stand out as Jesus' representatives. We are known in our neighborhood as a place of warmth and welcome. An example is our work to shelter refugees and immigrants. From care for the environment to knitting circles to showing up for Pride, there are opportunities to get involved and grow your faith through actions large and small at St. Swithin's.