



A 5-week journey into faith, belonging, and the Episcopal way of following Jesus.

For seekers, newcomers, and anyone exploring confirmation in the Episcopal Church.



FAQs

About Claiming

Claiming is a five-week journey into faith, purpose, belonging, and what it means to follow Jesus in the Episcopal tradition. Designed for teens and adults considering confirmation, reception into the Episcopal Church, or simply exploring, this series offers a welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and discover why the Episcopal Church has become a spiritual home for so many. The series includes four sessions on Zoom and a final in-person gathering. Come explore what the Episcopal tradition offers—and whether this way of faith might become your own.

Who is Claiming for?

Claiming is for:

- seekers and spiritually curious people
- newcomers to the Episcopal Church
- teens and adults considering confirmation
- baptized Christians from other traditions who may be exploring reception into the Episcopal Church
- Episcopalians who want to reaffirm their faith
- people returning to church after time away

If you are wondering whether the Episcopal Church might be a spiritual home for you, this series is for you.

Do I have to be sure I want to become Episcopalian?

No. You do not need to be ready to make a commitment in order to participate. Claiming is a space to explore, learn, ask questions, and discern your next step.

What if I'm just curious about the Episcopal Church?

You are very welcome. Claiming is not only for people preparing for confirmation. It is also for anyone who wants to better understand Episcopal worship, belief, community, and practice.

Is this only for people seeking confirmation?

No. Some participants may be considering **confirmation**, while others may be discerning **reception** into the Episcopal Church, **reaffirmation** of their baptismal faith, or simply a deeper understanding of the tradition.

What's the difference between confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation?

In the Episcopal Church:

- **Confirmation** is a public reaffirmation of faith with the laying on of hands by a bishop.
- **Reception** is for baptized Christians who have already been confirmed in another Christian tradition and now wish to be formally welcomed into the Episcopal Church.
- **Reaffirmation** is for those who want to renew their commitment to Christ and the Church, often after a significant change or return to faith.

The Episcopal Church's formation materials for baptized persons emphasize growth in the meaning of baptism, regular worship, service, and discernment in the life of the Church (*The Book of Occasional Services*, "Welcoming Returning Members and Members Baptized in Other Traditions" and "Preparation of Baptized Persons for Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant," reflected in the cited excerpts above).

What if I come from another Christian denomination?

You are welcome. Many people in Claiming may come from other Christian backgrounds. If you are already baptized, this series can help you explore what it means to belong to the Episcopal Church and what your next step might be.

What if I've been away from church for a long time?

You are especially welcome. Claiming is meant to be a gentle, thoughtful, and low-pressure way to reconnect with Christian faith and community.

Do I need to know a lot about the Bible, theology, or the Book of Common Prayer?

No. No prior knowledge is required. Claiming is designed to be accessible for people at many different stages of faith and experience.

How are the sessions offered?

The first four sessions will be held on **Zoom**, making the series accessible to participants from anywhere, regardless of location. The fifth and final session will be held **in person**, giving participants the opportunity to gather face-to-face for worship, conversation, and prayerful discernment.

What happens at the in-person session?

The fifth session is a chance to gather in person for worship, conversation, reflection, and discernment. It is an opportunity to celebrate the journey so far and consider what next step God may be calling you to take.

Do I have to attend all five sessions?

We strongly encourage participants to attend all five sessions, since each week builds on the last. If you have a scheduling conflict, please reach out to the organizers.

Is this program only for adults?

No. Claiming is for **teens and adults**.

Will I be asked to share personal experiences?

You may be invited to reflect and participate in conversation, but no one will be pressured to share more than they are comfortable sharing.

Is this a class or a conversation?

It is both. Claiming includes teaching, reflection, and conversation. There will be space to learn, ask questions, and engage with others on the journey.

Is there a cost?

No, only your investment in time.

How do I register?

Visit the link at www.diocgc.org/claiming.

Who is leading the series?

Bishop Russell Kendrick and the Rev. Joy Blaylock, Ph.D.

What if I still have questions?

We'd love to hear from you. Please contact Rev. Joy at joyblaylock@diocgc.org.
