

NEWCOMERS MINISTRY

The purpose of Newcomers is to welcome guests that are on their spiritual journey to learn more about St. Michael's and the Episcopal Church. Our ministry provides hospitality during meetings and a significant presence of parishioners serving as volunteers representing our community of worship. The active nature and broad scope of various ministries are discussed frequently, and selected ministries attend one class to discuss the work performed and opportunities available for newcomers to participate in. Spiritual grounding is consistently communicated through the class curriculum presented by our clergy.

The Newcomer ministry continues to provide a pathway for guests to find a long-term spiritual home at St. Michael's. Just like the two previous years we conducted two series of Newcomer sessions in 2024. Our classes average a starting population of 16, narrowed to 12, with 8 participants attending all sessions. Each class of Newcomers represents a unique composition of participants - different faith background, gender, age, etc. The most consistent reason for people finding St. Michael's as a welcoming place of worship is our strong reputation for being the leading progressive church in Albuquerque.

In preparation for Newcomer sessions in 2025, we will survey our Ministry volunteers and recent attendees to solicit new ideas to find out what presentation content and styles are most effective and engaging.