2025 Vitality | DioATL

Parochial Report Overview

117 Worshipping Communities	1082 New Disciples	39.7K members	10.6K ASA	6.2K impacted weekly through outreach ministries
From 2024:	-5.7%	N/A	+1.9%	+245%

Attendance Trends

79%
Parishes were at about 79% of their pre-Covid in-person attendance.

+2%
Overall attendance was up 2% from the previous year.

55%
of parishes increased attendance.

18%
of parishes **exceeded** their Pre-Covid attendance.

Church-Wide Trends

Average ASA

- TEC: 66
- DioATL: 120

The average Sunday attendance for congregations across the Episcopal Church is 66.

Median ASA

- TEC: 37
- DioATL: 88

Meaning half of churches in DioATL have less than 88 in attendance on Sunday and half have more.

Newcomers to TEC

(in the past 5 years)

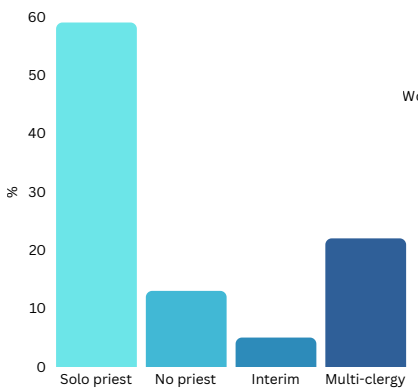
- 77% came from another Church
- 20% returned after years away
- 3% never attended a congregation before

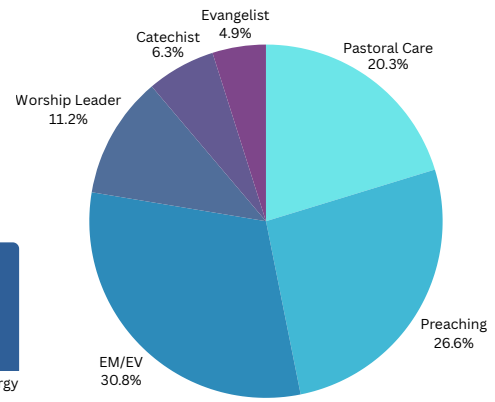
Stats on LLMs

40
Number of diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) serving throughout the Diocese.

116
Number of times LLMs exercised their licensed ministries in 2026 so far

1/3
LLMs are from more than 20 different parishes, and have served in about **one third** of our Diocese of Atlanta parishes, as well as in over a dozen non-parochial settings





LLMs have mostly been serving in parishes with solo clergy, helping with pastoral care and preaching

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Markers of Vitality

The key indicators of congregational vitality and health:

Internal:
A Transformational Experience

- Inspiring Worship
- Deep Sense of Belonging
- Christian Formation

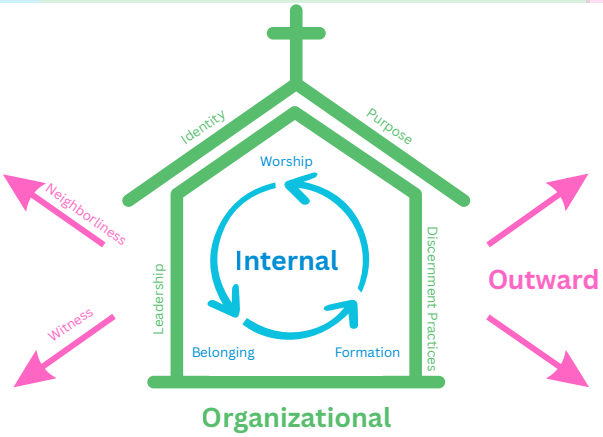
Organizational:
practices that serve as scaffolding to supports transformation & move it outward

- Articulated identity & Gifts
- Clear Sense of Purpose
- Discernment Practices (listening & experimentation)
- Shared Leadership

Outward:
Having an external impact

- Neighborliness - outreach/service & relationship with neighbors
- Witness & Evangelism

Internal factors (worship, belonging, formation) negatively impact attendance UNLESS there is ALSO an outward focus.



Outward focus is key:
80% of congregations that exceeded their pre-covid ASA rated their **outward focus & impact** as THE SAME or HIGHER than their **internal experience**

Analysis of Vitality Data

Attendance

Needed for Resilience/Adaptability:

- **discernment** practices for determining next most faithful steps

Best predictors of increasing attendance:

- a transformational experience
- clear articulation of identity & gifts
- Outward focus & impact

(All 3 need to be present)

Finances

Best predictor of increasing plate & pledge:

- clear sense of purpose

Vitality

Strongest in DioATL parishes:
Belonging
Needed the most development: discernment practices

The Office of Congregational Vitality has tools to explore and develop all of these aspects of vitality.

Vestry retreats offered this year will focus on exploring

- where **transformation** & belonging are happening
- articulating a parish's **identity** and gifts in order to make their best invitation
- discerning how to invest presence & relationships in the **neighborhood**
- prioritizing energy and right-sizing