

Ethan J.



After almost twenty years of struggle with organized religion, I decided I needed a focus for spirituality in my life. I became increasingly drawn to the Episcopal Church over the years, because of its progressive stances on social justice issues, such as the ordination of women and the role of gays and lesbians in the Church. Finally, in early 2004, my partner, Mike, and I decided to give the Episcopal Church a try. We scanned Websites of Episcopal churches in our area, hoping to find a church and a pastor that would be welcoming and accepting of an openly gay couple.

We were very fortunate to find this community. I continue to be profoundly moved by how genuinely accepting everyone is and how much we care about each other. After meeting several times with the priest, Steve, I decided to be baptized at the Easter Vigil service. Having been brought up as a conservative Jew, who wanted to become a rabbi, this was a huge step. It was one of the most transforming and self-affirming experiences of my life, and started me on a path of surprising spiritual exploration. Over the last several years, the church has helped me rediscover my faith in God and to find joy in worship, community, and service. I always suspected that God had led me here for a reason, and most surprising of all, my spiritual journey is now leading me to discern a call to the priesthood.