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Markers for Thriving Churches

Canonical

- Regular program of worship at a designated place or places
- Shares in the larger life of the Church (region, diocese, The Episcopal Church)
- Provides pastoral care to members of the church
- Provides adequate resources for property maintenance

Practices of Thriving Churches

- Provides opportunities to develop more meaningful and nurturing relationships with others and with God
- Incorporates ways for people to learn and grow in the Christian faith following the theology and ethos of The Episcopal Church and Anglican history and practice
- Has identifiable leaders who serve limited terms and encourage new leaders
- The congregation is larger than the leaders and liturgical ministers
- The income of the church equals or exceeds the expenses
- Follows the pattern of Jesus in practices of church life: Gather, Transform, and Send
- Maintains practices of inviting, welcoming, orienting and incorporating new members
- Incorporates and is relevant to the needs of the surrounding neighbors and maintains relationships of mutual interdependence
- Makes decisions and plans of action based on who they are as disciples of Jesus (missional identity)
- Develops events and plans based on their missional purpose (the why)

Love Jesus. Embody justice. Be disciples.

- Joyful and generous giving occurs as part of the church's missional purpose
- Shares the talent of lay and clergy leaders in diocesan ministries
- Scale of the buildings and property matches the needs of the congregation