



## MEMBERSHIP AFFIRMATION

### FAITH

*I am a Christian, baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who seeks to conform my life to the Word of God.*

- Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.
- His perfect life, sacrificial death, and resurrection are my only hope for redemption from sin, death and divine judgment.
- I believe that there is no other name by which people may be saved.
- I believe that the Bible is God's Word written and, as such, is the supreme authority in the life of this church.
- I understand that the Church of the Incarnation relies on the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the 2008 Jerusalem Declaration as faithful summaries of what the Bible teaches about the Christian faith and what we endeavor to practice as a congregation.

### MISSION

*I am an ambassador of Jesus Christ.*

- I commit myself to the mission of this church in being and bringing the gospel to Harrisonburg and the Valley.
- I believe that the gospel is for all people and all places.
- I long for the day when this city and valley will be known for its faith, hope, and love.
- Knowing that I have been sent by Jesus into the world on mission, I seek to be a witness for Jesus at my workplace, in my community, and in my family.

### COMMUNITY

*I am a member of the body of Christ.*

- I intend to practice the humility and sacrificial attitude of Christ by considering first the needs of others, speaking the truth in love and guarding against gossip, seeking spiritual friendships, and praying for my Christian brothers and sisters.
- I intend to exercise affectionate care and watchfulness over others in this church family, receiving and giving godly admonition with courage, gentleness, humility, and love as we struggle together against sin and pursue, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the holiness and righteousness that is fitting for God's family.
- I intend to be chaste: I will conform my body and my sexual self to God's vision of human sexuality as laid out in Scripture and articulated by church tradition—fidelity within marriage between a man and a woman, and abstinence outside of such a marriage.
- I intend to respect and follow the clergy of my church.

## DISCIPLINE

*I am a disciple of Jesus and will conduct my life in a manner worthy of him.*

- I intend to grow into maturity in Christ through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and the practice of the other spiritual disciplines.
- I intend for my journey in Christ to be evident through my regular participation in corporate worship, and I intend to seek regular times of fellowship, accountability, and encouragement with other members of this church.
- When I move away from this place, I will seek, as soon as possible, to unite with some other church body where I can carry out the spirit of this affirmation and the principles of God's Word.

## STEWARDSHIP

*I am a steward in the King's service.*

- I intend to be a faithful steward of my time, body, gifts and talents, finances and possessions.
- I intend to serve in the ministry of this church and God's Kingdom by using the gifts God has given me.
- I intend to regularly and sacrificially give financially to support the ministry of this church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel.

*Almighty God, look with favor upon us as we affirm our commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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Signed

Date

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Please Print Name

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Names of children who are joining with you (Place an asterisk by those who have **NOT** been baptized.)

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Name of Small Group

## **SUMMARIES OF BIBLICAL TEACHING**

*The final paragraph within the Faith subheading on the Membership Affirmation identifies the three doctrinal summaries that are the basis for our beliefs and practices as a church.*

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*This ancient statement of faith goes back to at least the fourth century. It is an encapsulation of the essential and unifying Christian beliefs.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **THE NICENE CREED**

*The Nicene Creed has been prayed and recited since AD 325. It is the most widely used encapsulation of the essential and unifying beliefs of Christianity.*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **THE JERUSALEM DECLARATION**

*The Jerusalem Declaration is the unified statement of beliefs and practices of faithful Anglicans around the world. It emerged in 2008 out of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (GAFCON) movement, a movement resulting from the desire of Anglican Christians, especially in the Global South, to present a unified and orthodox witness to the world. By subscribing to the Jerusalem Declaration, we stand in solidarity with evangelical Anglicans everywhere.*

In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit:

We, the participants in the Global Anglican Future Conference, have met in the land of Jesus' birth. We express our loyalty as disciples to the King of kings, the Lord Jesus. We joyfully embrace his command to proclaim the reality of his kingdom which he first announced in this land. The gospel of the kingdom is the good news of salvation, liberation and transformation for all. In light of the above, we agree to chart a way forward together that promotes and protects the biblical gospel and mission to the world, solemnly declaring the following tenets of orthodoxy which underpin our Anglican identity.

1. We rejoice in the gospel of God through which we have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because God first loved us, we love him and as believers bring forth fruits of love, ongoing repentance, lively hope and thanksgiving to God in all things.
2. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God written and to contain all things necessary for salvation. The Bible is to be translated, read, preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading.
3. We uphold the four Ecumenical Councils and the three historic Creeds as expressing the rule of faith of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
4. We uphold the Thirty-nine Articles as containing the true doctrine of the Church agreeing with God's Word and as authoritative for Anglicans today.
5. We gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Savior from sin, judgement and hell, who lived the life we could not live and died the death that we deserve. By his atoning death and glorious resurrection, he secured the redemption of all who come to him in repentance and faith.
6. We rejoice in our Anglican sacramental and liturgical heritage as an expression of the gospel, and we uphold the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as a true and authoritative standard of worship and prayer, to be translated and locally adapted for each culture.
7. We recognize that God has called and gifted bishops, priests and deacons in historic succession to equip all the people of God for their ministry in the world. We uphold the classic Anglican Ordinal as an authoritative standard of clerical orders.
8. We acknowledge God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.
9. We gladly accept the Great Commission of the risen Lord to make disciples of all nations, to seek those who do not know Christ and to baptize, teach and bring new believers to maturity.
10. We are mindful of our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to uphold and advocate justice in society, and to seek relief and empowerment of the poor and needy.
11. We are committed to the unity of all those who know and love Christ and to building authentic ecumenical relationships. We recognize the orders and jurisdiction of those Anglicans who uphold orthodox faith and practice, and we encourage them to join us in this declaration.
12. We celebrate the God-given diversity among us which enriches our global fellowship, and we acknowledge freedom in secondary matters. We pledge to work together to seek the mind of Christ on issues that divide us.
13. We reject the authority of those churches and leaders who have denied the orthodox faith in word or deed. We pray for them and call on them to repent and return to the Lord.

14. We rejoice at the prospect of Jesus' coming again in glory, and while we await this final event of history, we praise him for the way he builds up his church through his Spirit by miraculously changing lives.

## **EXPLANATION OF THE JERUSALEM DECLARATION**

### *Why are we affirming the Jerusalem Declaration?*

Several important developments have occurred over the past few years within global Anglicanism. One of them is the inauguration of the GAFCON movement and the publication of the Jerusalem Declaration. Another is the founding of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), of which we are a part. Since ACNA is a member of GAFCON and subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration, we are simply making explicit what is implied through our affiliation with these organizations.

### *What is the relationship of the Thirty-nine Articles and the Jerusalem Declaration?*

The Thirty-nine Articles are the first Protestant confessional document in English, originally written in the 16th Century during the English Reformation. The Articles are the granddaddy of the Westminster Confession, the London Baptist Confession, and other such doctrinal statements dating back to the Reformation. The Jerusalem Declaration specifically embraces and affirms the Thirty-nine Articles while also addressing broader issues concerning the Christian life.