

Church of the Cross

BOSTON

BY-LAWS

Revised 26 August 2021

INTRODUCTION

Church of the Cross, also referred to as the “Church,” is incorporated under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Christian church in the Anglican tradition. The Church is affiliated with the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA, “Province”) and the Anglican Diocese of Christ Our Hope (DCH, “Diocese”). The Church shall be committed to and operate in a manner consistent with the historic orthodoxy of Christian faith.

SECTION 1 – THE PURPOSE OF THESE BY-LAWS; DEFINITIONS

What are these “By-laws” and what is their function?

Section 1.1. It is the purpose of these By-laws to provide a stable and effective organizational structure to aid this Church in accomplishing its mission.

What does the word “Church” mean?

Section 1.2. Throughout these by-laws, the initial capitalized term “Church” refers to Church of the Cross, Boston, Massachusetts, a body corporate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In other places in these Bylaws, the term “church” may be used. What does this mean?

Section 1.3. The word “church”, with the first letter not capitalized, refers to the visible Church of Christ, being the congregations of faithful men and women throughout the world in which the pure Word of God is preached and in which the Sacraments are duly administered according to Christ’s ordinance.

To whom is the Church associated?

Section 1.4. Church of the Cross shall be affiliated with the Anglican Church in North America and the Anglican Diocese of Christ Our Hope.

What is the Fiscal Year of the Church?

Section 1.5. The Church’s “Fiscal Year” is the twelve-month period ending June 30th of each calendar year with respect to which the financial affairs of the Church are to be evaluated and audited.

What are the “Governing Theological Principles” of the Church?

Section 1.6. The Church adopts the Fundamental Declarations of the Province (Appendix A), the Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese (Appendix B). Furthermore, we receive and affirm the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Statement and the Jerusalem Declaration issued on June 29, 2008 (Appendix C). Reference to the “Governing Theological Principles” of the Church refers to these Declarations.

Who is the Church's Rector and what does he do? Who appoints the Rector?

Section 1.7. The term "Rector" means the Rector or senior minister who is ordained as a Presbyterian in the ACNA and is licensed by the Bishop to the charge of the Church with the consent of the Parish Council. The Rector is to lead the Church in accomplishing its mission. The Rector leads the other Clergy and the Staff.

Who are the Clergy and what do they do?

Section 1.8. The term "Clergy" means the Rector and all ordained ministers, both Deacons and Presbyters who serve in a formal capacity at the Church. Under the leadership of the Rector, the Clergy lead the Church in accomplishing its mission. In addition to other responsibilities, the Clergy lead the worship services of the Church, preach, teach, administer the sacraments, exercise church discipline, and direct the vision of the Church. The Clergy will carry out these responsibilities with the advice of the Parish Council.

What is the Parish Council?

Section 1.9. The term "Parish Council" refers to the team of lay members of the Church and the Rector that serve together to support the mission of the Church. The lay members of the Parish Council serve as the Directors of the Church. The Parish Council shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Church.

Who are the "Members" of the Church and what do they do?

Section 1.10. A "Member" of the Church is a person:

Section 1.10A. who expresses a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;

Section 1.10B. who has been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;

Section 1.10C. who regularly attends worship services and other church activities;

Section 1.10D. who has expressed a commitment to the Church by signing or renewing the Membership Covenant within the preceding twelve months.

Section 1.11. Voting members must fulfill all of the above, be at least eighteen years of age, and are expected to communicate proactively their ideas, concerns and needs to the Church leadership, such as to the Clergy or appropriate Parish Council member.

Section 1.12. The role of the Members is to strive, by the grace of God, to live a godly, missional life of worship and relational servanthood. The Members are the primary ministers of the Church through whom the mission of the Church is advanced.

Section 1.13. The Members of the Church shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities or obligations of the Church.

Section 1.14. A person ceases to be a Member of the Church when he or she dies, or when he or she has, without good reason, for a period of twelve consecutive months, ceased to attend the Sunday worship service, failed to renew his or her Membership Covenant, or when his or her conduct is considered by the Presbyters, in consultation with the Parish Council, to have deviated from the standards consistent with the Governing Theological Principles of the Church and who, after being formally advised of these concerns on at least two occasions, has refused to address the matter.

What is the Mission of the Church?

Section 1.15. The Church of the Cross exists to proclaim and demonstrate the good news of God's Kingdom, focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, in Boston, Massachusetts, by making and growing disciples and sharing a common life together for the good of the city and the world and to the glory of God.

What is the "Membership" of the Church?

Section 1.16. The term "Membership" refers to the Members of the Church collectively.

Who is the Church's Bishop, and what does he do?

Section 1.17. The "Bishop" is the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese who provides oversight for the Rector and Clergy as they seek to accomplish the mission of the Church.

SECTION 2 – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

What are Membership Meetings?

Section 2.1. Membership meetings are formal meetings of the Members of the Church. Votes of Members at Membership Meetings shall have such effect as provided for in these By-laws.

Will there be an Annual Membership Meeting?

Section 2.2. An Annual Membership Meeting (the "Annual Meeting") shall be held on a date specified by the Parish Council.

What are the items of business to be addressed at the Annual Meeting?

Section 2.3. There shall be one annual meeting of the Members to:

Section 2.3A. review the previous year;

Section 2.3B. cast vision for the coming year including a brief overview of the budget;

Section 2.3C. receive, consider and/or vote with respect to other matters as are required by applicable law or by-law and as determined prior to the Meeting to be appropriate by the Parish Council and Rector, as are included and described in the notices relating to such meeting.

In addition to Annual Meetings, may Special Membership Meetings be called and convened? If so, who may call such Meetings, and for what purposes?

Section 2.4. Special Membership Meetings may be called by the Rector or a 2/3 majority of the Parish Council.

What are the procedures for notifying the Members regarding a Membership Meeting?

Section 2.5. Each Membership Meeting shall be convened with at least two weeks notice by email, by announcement in the Sunday service, and by writing in the Sunday service bulletins.

What is required to be included in oral and written notices of Membership Meetings?

Section 2.6. Any oral and written notice referred to in Section 2.5 of these By-laws shall contain: a brief and accurate description of the matters to be addressed at the Membership Meeting. No other business may be voted on at the Membership Meeting to which the notice relates. Members may raise issues of concern at a Membership Meeting even if such issues are not addressed in the notices for the Meeting.

Are there quorum requirements regarding the conduct of business at a Membership Meeting?

Section 2.7. One-third (1/3) of the Church's Members on the date of the Membership Meeting must be present at such Meeting to constitute a quorum enabling business to be conducted.

Section 2.8. If no quorum is present within a half hour after the time appointed in the notice of the Meeting, the Meeting shall stand adjourned for seven (7) days.

How will Membership Meetings be conducted?

Section 2.9. The Rector shall serve as the Chairman of each Membership Meeting and shall determine how to run elections, if necessary.

Under what circumstances may a Membership Meeting where quorum is present be adjourned? What are the procedures for its recommencement and who may participate and vote at the reconvened Meeting?

Section 2.10. If a quorum is present at a Membership meeting, the Meeting may be adjourned by a prayer from the Rector, or the acting Chairman over the meeting, if in his judgment discussions have become unduly contentious and/or additional time for research and informal discussion is in the Church's best interests; the Meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the Parish Council shall determine.

SECTION 3 – THE RECTOR

What are the Rector's primary responsibilities and his tenure?

Section 3.1. The role of the Rector is to:

Section 3.1A. lead the Church, in partnership with the other Clergy, by leading the worship services, preaching, teaching, administering the sacraments, exercising church discipline, and directing the vision of the Church;

Section 3.1B. lead the Members by teaching biblical truth, shepherding God's people, casting vision, and advancing the mission;

Section 3.1C. lead the Parish Council and other ministry teams and take a leading role in establishing members of the Parish Council;

Section 3.1D. lead the other Clergy and provide guidance for their ministries;

Section 3.1E. lead the Staff by directing them in their management of all Church operations; and

Section 3.1F. hire, direct, and fire any and all Church Staff and additional Clergy. Compensation for any Staff and Clergy must be approved by the Parish Council.

What are the qualifications for the office of Rector?

Section 3.2. The Rector shall be a mature Christian of good standing in the wider church who:

Section 3.2A. subscribes fully to the Governing Theological Principles;

Section 3.2B. is an ordained Presbyterian in ACNA who is recognized for his gifts and ministry skills and who in the judgment of the Parish Council is committed to the Church's Mission and ministry in Boston, Massachusetts; and

Section 3.2C. has the approval of the Bishop through licensure.

What happens if the office of Rector becomes vacant? What happens when the Rector is dismissed or resigns?

Section 3.3. The office of the Rector shall be deemed vacant in the event that the Rector resigns, retires, becomes permanently incapacitated in such a manner as to prevent him from performing his duties as Rector as provided for in these By-laws, dies, or is dismissed from his office by the lay members of the Parish Council with the approval of the Bishop. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Rector, the Parish Council shall determine the method for replacement of a Rector or Interim Minister, being advised by the Bishop. An Interim Minister or new Rector must be approved by the Parish Council and the Bishop. The Members of the Church will be kept informed of this process throughout but will not have a vote.

What are the duties of any Interim Minister?

Section 3.4. The Interim Minister shall generally have such duties as prescribed for the Rector under these By-laws, and as may be prescribed to him from time to time by the Bishop.

How are additional Clergy appointed and dismissed and what are their duties?

Section 3.5. In the event that the Rector shall determine that there is a need for one or more additional ministers, the Rector shall advise the Parish Council, and, in consultation with the Bishop, he shall initiate a process of finding and calling additional Clergy. The Rector shall appoint additional ministers and, in consultation with the Parish Council, such ministers shall be called to the Church and installed in the appropriate office of the ministry of the Church.

Section 3.6. The role of the Clergy is to provide leadership for the Church, under the direction and leadership of the Rector and Bishop, to accomplish its mission. Clergy shall lead the Members by leading the worship services of the Church, preaching, teaching, administering the sacraments, exercising church discipline and directing the vision of the Church.

Section 3.7. In consultation with the Parish Council and the Bishop, the Rector may dismiss Clergy from their position and employment with the Church. When a Clergy is dismissed, the Parish Council may provide a severance package based on the outgoing Clergy's past service, the reason for leaving, and a cooperative spirit. Severance shall not continue for more than six months.

How are additional Staff appointed and dismissed and what are their duties?

Section 3.8. Staff are those people who are not Clergy and who hold positions of leadership in the Church, paid or unpaid. The role of the Staff is to develop and strengthen the ministries of the Church to help the Church accomplish its mission. Staff positions are created, filled, vacated or discontinued at the Rector's discretion. As a condition of employment, both initial and ongoing, staff must agree to abide by our Governing Theological Principles; a signed agreement to live by these principles will be a part of their employment contract. Failure to abide by these principles, whether in manner of life, speech, or communicated opinion, is grounds for termination.

Section 3.9. In the event that the Rector shall determine that there is a need for one or more additional Staff, the Rector shall advise the Parish Council, and he shall initiate a process of finding additional Staff.

Section 3.10. The Rector may fire Staff from their position and/or employment with the Church. When a paid Staff person is dismissed, the Parish Council may provide a severance package based on the outgoing Staff person's past service, the reason for leaving, and a cooperative spirit. Severance shall not continue for more than three months.

SECTION 4 – CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

What are the general responsibilities of the Parish Council?

Section 4.1. The primary role of the Parish Council shall be to confer with the Clergy about the initiation, conduct, and development of the Church's ministry and make recommendations to the Clergy concerning the Church's ministry. The Parish Council shall provide accountability and support for the Clergy, work to equip others for the work of Christ through the execution of their responsibilities, and seek to broaden the base of leadership within the Church. The Parish Council shall set and approve the annual budget for the Church. The Parish Council shall set compensation amounts for the Clergy and Staff of the church and shall have general oversight in all financial matters of the Church.

What is the size and composition of the Parish Council?

Section 4.2. The Parish Council shall consist of the Rector and no fewer than six and no more than ten lay Members.

Section 4.3. The Parish Council shall have the following Officers: Rector's Warden, People's Warden, and Treasurer.

What is the process for the selection of Members to serve on the Parish Council?

Section 4.4. The process for selecting new Parish Council members shall have four steps.

First, the Parish Council will seek recommendations from the congregation. All in the congregation are eligible to submit recommendations, but only members of the church are eligible to be recommended. The Parish Council must notify the congregation that it is seeking recommendations at least twelve weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Second, no later than one week after receiving the congregation's nominations, the Parish Council will publish the list of nominees and invite the congregation into a time of prayer for the Parish Council's discernment process.

Third, after reviewing the congregation's recommendations, the Parish Council will nominate members of the church for election to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will nominate only as many members as they seek to add to the Parish Council. The Parish Council must notify the congregation of its nominees at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Fourth, prior to serving on the Parish Council, the Parish Council's nominees must be confirmed by the members of the church during the Annual Meeting . Any nominee that receives at least 75% of the votes of the members at this meeting shall be duly confirmed and elected to serve on the Parish Council. The changes in Parish Council membership shall take effect at the first Parish Council meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Section 4.5. In the event of a Parish Council vacancy prior to the completion of the relevant Parish Council member's term, the remaining members may fill that vacancy with a qualified member of the church)as an interim parish council member. An interim parish council member shall serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which point that vacancy will be open for recommendation, nomination, and election.

How long may Members of the Parish Council remain in such office?

Section 4.6. Lay Members of the Parish Council shall be selected for three -year terms. Lay members may serve no more than two terms consecutively. If a parish council member serves two consecutive terms, that member will not be eligible for parish council membership again until a period of twelve months has passed.

How are Members removed from the Parish Council?

Section 4.7. Membership in the Parish Council may be vacated by resignation, by removal as a Church Member, or by action of the Parish Council (in which the person in question cannot vote). A Member of the Parish Council may be deemed to have resigned for failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Parish Council.

Who chairs meetings of the Parish Council?

Section 4.8. The Rector chairs and leads the meetings of the Parish Council unless he elects, with respect to any meeting, to delegate the chairmanship to the Rector's Warden.

What are the quorum requirements?

Section 4.9. At meetings of the Parish Council, a majority of the members of the Parish Council shall be present to constitute quorum. Presence at the meeting by proxy or voting by proxy is prohibited.

How are decisions made on the Parish Council?

Section 4.10. Action of the Parish Council shall be made through voting, seeking consensus whenever possible. A motion that receives a majority of votes, presuming quorum exists, will be considered approved.

Section 4.11. In the event of a tie and at the discretion of the Rector, the way in which the Rector has voted will be decisive.

Are there any other rules in these By-laws relating to Parish Council meetings?

Section 4.12. Accurate minutes of each meeting of the Parish Council shall be made by or under the direction of the Secretary. These minutes shall be made available to the Members as requested. The Parish Council may, at times, choose to enter into an executive session, and the minutes of such sessions will not be made available to Members.

SECTION 5. OFFICERS

How are the Rector's Warden and People's Warden selected and what are the roles of the Rector's Warden and People's Warden?

Section 5.1. The Rector's Warden shall be appointed by the Rector from the lay members of the Parish Council.

Section 5.2. The Rector's Warden shall preside over the Parish Council and Membership Meetings in the absence of the Rector.

Section 5.3. The People's Warden shall be selected by the lay members of the Parish Council by majority vote of the lay members of the Parish Council.

Section 5.4. The People's Warden shall preside over the Parish Council and Membership Meetings in the absence of the Rector and Rector's Warden.

Section 5.5. The Wardens shall: (a) supervise the property of the Church and (b) notify the Bishop or ecclesiastical authority upon a vacancy in the position of Rector and receive guidance as to the provision for ministerial services.

How is the Treasurer selected and what is the role of the Treasurer?

Section 5.6. The Treasurer shall be selected by majority vote of the Parish Council.

Section 5.7. The Treasurer shall be the executor of the will of the Parish Council.

Section 5.7A. The Treasurer shall maintain or oversee the maintenance of the financial records of the Church including but not limited to all sums received from any and all sources as well as all disbursements made for any and all purposes, which records shall always be subject to the inspection of the Parish Council.

Section 5.7B. It is preferred that no checks in the general operating or capital accounts of the Church be signed by the Clergy. All checks should be signed and countersigned by such persons appointed by the Parish Council, one of whom will be the Treasurer, in a duly adopted resolution.

Section 5.7C. The Treasurer shall pay the Clergy and all other Staff who have salaries, in convenient installments.

Section 5.7D. The Treasurer shall furnish to the Rector, if requested, an accurate list of those persons who are regular contributors to the revenues of the Church.

SECTION 6 – LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

Can another member legally challenge or hold personally responsible any member of the Parish Council for decisions or actions made by that person or by the Parish Council?

Section 6.1 Except when required by law, no member of the Parish Council shall be personally liable for payment of taxes or for monetary damages for any action taken or any failure to take action unless (a) such member has breached or failed to perform his or her fiduciary duties and (b) the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.

Section 6.2 Each person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding, including actions by or in the right of the Church, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a member of the leadership body, officer, employee or agent of the Church or is or was serving at the request of the Church as a member of the leadership body, officer, employee, or agent of another entity shall be indemnified by the Church against expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by or imposed upon him or her in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding; provided however, that the Church shall not indemnify any such person where the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim for indemnification is determined by the court to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, unless such person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by the judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not of itself create a presumption that the person is not entitled to indemnification under this Section, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 6.3 No amendment or repeal of this Article shall adversely affect any right or protection extended to a member of the leadership body, officer, employee, or agent hereunder for an act or failure to act

occurring before the time of such amendment or repeal. Each Parish Council member, officer, employee and agent shall be deemed to act in such capacity in reliance upon the rights of indemnification, and advancement of expenses hereunder shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Parish Council member, officer, employee, or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person.

SECTION 7 – MANNER OF AMENDMENT

How may these By-laws be amended?

Section 7.1. These By-laws can be amended only in the following manner:

Section 7.1A. The amendment is proposed by the Parish Council or a petition signed by one-third of the active Members of the Church. All amendments must be proposed in writing at a regular meeting of the Parish Council;

Section 7.1B. If the amendments are approved by a supermajority (66 2/3%) of the Parish Council, they are accepted.

CONCLUSION

The organizational structure set forth in these By-laws is intended to contribute to the Church's efforts to be a community that is "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1.27).

APPENDIX A

ARTICLE 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA: FUNDAMENTAL DECLARATIONS OF THE PROVINCE

As the Anglican Church in North America (the Province), being a part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church of Christ, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. Therefore, we identify the following seven elements as characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership:

1. We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.
2. We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with unfailing use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
3. We confess the godly historic Episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.
4. We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
5. Concerning the seven Councils of the undivided Church, we affirm the teaching of the first four Councils and the Christological clarifications of the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils, in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.
6. We receive The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship.
7. We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, taken in their literal and grammatical sense, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief.

In all these things, the Anglican Church in North America is determined by the help of God to hold and maintain, as the Anglican Way has received them, the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to our posterity.

We seek to be and remain in full communion with all Anglican Churches, Dioceses and Provinces that hold and maintain the Historic Faith, Doctrine, Sacraments and Discipline of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

APPENDIX B

ARTICLE 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CHRIST OUR HOPE: FUNDAMENTAL DECLARATIONS OF THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Christ our Hope, being part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ, believes and confesses Jesus Christ as Lord. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life: none comes to the Father but by Him.

The Diocese hereby adopts the Fundamental Declarations of the Province (Appendix A) as set forth in Article I of the Provincial Constitution. Furthermore, we receive and affirm the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Statement and the Jerusalem Declaration issued June 29, 2008 (Appendix C). In particular, this Diocese confesses and upholds:

1. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be God's Word written, containing all that is necessary for salvation;
2. The orthodox Christian creeds, namely the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed together with the Chalcedonian Definition;
3. The Thirty-nine Articles as containing the true doctrine of the Church agreeing with God's Word and as authoritative for Anglicans today;
4. Anglican sacramental and liturgical heritage as an expression of the gospel, and 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.

The Diocese acknowledges the authority and powers of the Province as set forth in the Provincial Constitution and Canons adopted thereby, and adopts this Constitution to be in conformance therewith. All powers not granted to the Province are reserved to the Diocese. In the event of a conflict between the Constitution and/or Canons of the Diocese and the Constitution and/or Canons of the ACNA, the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA shall govern this Diocese.

APPENDIX C

The Jerusalem Declaration

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- We gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Saviour 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.
- 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.
- We recognise 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.
- 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.
- 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 baptise, teach and bring new believers to maturity.

- 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.
- We are committed to the unity of all those who know and love Christ and to building authentic ecumenical relationships. We recognise the orders and jurisdiction of those Anglicans who uphold orthodox faith and practice, and we encourage them to join us in this declaration.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Jerusalem
Feast of St Peter and St Paul
29 June 2008