

# Instruments of Unity

## 1. We are A Communion

A communion reflects the unanimity and singularity of the Apostolic and Patristic Church, while encompassing both Protestant and Catholic traditions, as well as embracing a multiplicity of expressions of worship and practice. In contrast to a denomination, a communion expresses the organic unity Jesus Christ originally established in His Body, the Church. Rather than from divisions created by historic differences over doctrine and practice, a communion represents a return to unity based on the recovery of the essential oneness of the ancient, medieval, and contemporary church. Standing within the Celtic and Anglican spiritual traditions, The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches was created by a convergence of the great historical expressions of faith and practice: the Evangelical, the Charismatic, and the Liturgical/Sacramental traditions. The fundamental principles defining inclusion in the Communion are detailed in the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1886 and 1888 Resolution II. The four basic statements are:

- A) The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as "containing all things necessary for salvation" and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith.
- B) The Apostles' Creed, as the Baptismal Symbol; and the Nicene Creed, as the sufficient statement of faith.
- C) The two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself- Baptism and the Supper of the Lord - ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of institution, and the elements ordained by Him.  
*\*We also affirm the other sacramental rites which evolved in the church including Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation, and Unction.\**
- D) The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the Unity of His Church.

This definition establishes guidelines for the CEEC and is understood as the essence of the Apostolic Tradition, as we seek to express it in the Convergence Movement.

## 2. Our Theological Center

The CEEC defines Anglicanism as English Orthodoxy, developing from the very beginning of the Christian faith in the British Isles and enduring to the present age. Therefore, in our usage, Anglicanism is inclusive of its Celtic origins, Patristic roots, the Medieval Church, the Protestant Reformation, the Wesleyan Evangelical Revival, the Oxford Movement, and the modern Charismatic movement.

We measure Anglican history not only from Thomas Cranmer forward, but also from the Reformation backward. Anglicanism in the CEEC is not shaped by its connection to the See of Canterbury, but by its relationship to history.

The elements of Anglicanism are:

- a) The priority and authority of Holy Scripture as the source of our knowledge of God;
- b) The doctrinal guidance of the Catholic Creeds: Apostle's, Nicene, and Athanasian;
- c) The truth that salvation is, in the final analysis, the gift of God and by grace alone;
- d) The use of liturgy which is faithful to Scripture and embodies the experience of the church in worship over the centuries;

- e) The historic episcopate, or the order of bishops, as a sign of the unity of the one Church of God;
- f) The threefold ministry of bishop, presbyter (priest), and deacon as that ministry which God has led the Church to adopt since primitive times;
- g) The two Gospel sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion ordained by Christ for regular use in the Church;  
*\*We also affirm the other sacramental rites which evolved in the church including Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation, and Unction.\**
- h) The unity of the ministry of the Word and Sacrament in the Service of Holy Communion;
- i) The need for regular preaching and teaching from the Holy Scriptures;
- j) The recognition that the visible unity of the Church on earth is God's will
- k) The need for a regularly reviewed Canon Law within each Province, to respond to the unfolding needs of the people and the church;
- l) The priesthood of the whole church as a worshipping and praying society
- m) The recognition of the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit and the impartation of gifts and ministries in our time;
- n) A commitment to fulfill The Great Commission to winning the world to Jesus Christ into the Third Millennium;

### **3. The Vision of the CEEC**

- A) The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches (CEEC) is a communion of the holy catholic church whose identity and self-understanding is rooted in the Anglican spiritual tradition of being Catholic, Evangelical and Protestant. We attempt to maintain and practice the faith as given to us by the Apostles through the mother Church of the worldwide Anglican family - the Church of England.
- B) The CEEC envisions a communion whose parishes are fully evangelical, fully charismatic, and fully liturgical and sacramental.
- C) We believe, as Evangelicals, that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired Word of God, and that they contain all things necessary for salvation and godly living. We are committed to faithful reading, studying, teaching, and preaching from the Scriptures. We believe the Holy Scriptures is a wellspring for spiritual maturity. We also embrace the Evangelical distinctiveness that underlines the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a holy life, and a commitment to evangelism and mission.
- D) We believe, as Charismatics, that we are to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, that God's people have always been a spiritually gifted people. From the Apostles to the modern church, Christians have been endowed with a power beyond themselves, a power from the Holy Spirit. This means that we encourage our parishes to allow and anticipate His presence and working (through the spiritual gifts) in both our worship and daily acts of service and in personal relationship with Him.
- E) The CEEC is a communion in unity with the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic church. This means that at the very center of our worship we are historically liturgical and sacramental. We also retain the historic creeds, episcopacy and the three-fold ministry. We believe, as in the Anglican spiritual tradition, that our worship is to be liturgical, and for us that is best expressed and informed by the various Books of Common Prayer. We draw our worship practices and liturgy from different points of time - from the ever evolving, rich and

comprehensive traditions of Catholic faith and practice, to the influences of the Protestant Reformation.

- F) The CEEC vision is to be a contemporary communion where there is a convergence of ministry, rooted in the ancient and historical truths of the Church Universal, with contemporary worship and spiritual renewal, while reaching to the future in relevant ways, meeting the needs of unchurched and churching people. It is a *via media*, accepting both Catholics and Protestants as "one in Christ."

**4. Our participation in meetings either in person or via technology (where appropriate).**

This would obviously be possible barring extenuating circumstances that would prevent you from participating in any meeting. You have the commitment of the Office of Presiding Bishop to present these meetings in a timely fashion to allow for your participation.

**5. The Pledge of Fraternity signed by each Bishop.**

Please take a moment to sign this document digitally and please send back at your earliest convenience.

These Instruments of Unity serve to maintain the unity, vision and mission of the CEEC and the International House of Archbishops.

The unity of the CEEC is maintained through collegial relationship of each member of the International House of Archbishops who represent the various Provinces and Orders throughout the world and their affirmation and participation in the Instruments of Unity.



## Archbishop statement and pledge of Fraternity

*"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity;  
in all things, charity."  
-St. Augustine*

Inclusion as an Archbishop of the International House of Archbishops in The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches calls for commitment to the basic ideals for relationship, standards of behavior, and accountability to a pledge of fraternity.

As orthodoxy and personal morality is expected, so relationships of trust, mutual support, camaraderie, love and respect are anticipated.

### **ALL BISHOPS COVENANT TO:**

1. Do nothing to fracture the unity of The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches. This unity is understood as proceeding from the love of God between us and mutual commitment to the Truth of God received in Christ through the historic catholic and apostolic faith.
2. Uphold and support fellow bishops and clergy publicly and privately.
3. Do everything possible to create and contribute to an atmosphere of cooperation.
4. Deal with differences honestly, forthrightly and in a straightforward manner.
5. Settle contention privately in the matter of personal conflict. Should the problems persist, adjudication will follow through the Council of Archbishops. All Bishops agree to submit to the final decision of The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches settling areas of conflict.
6. To adhere to the standards of the inspired Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God and to the Instruments of Unity of The Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches as the guidelines for our life and ministry together in Jesus Christ.

We agree to pray for one another daily, respond immediately to need or personal call, stand together in controversy, disagree in charity, and persevere in supporting our corporate calling.



Signed by the following Clergy on this,

the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Clergy's Name)