

# **CTR COVENANT FOR LAY TEACHERS**

Established January 2021

## **Statement of Purpose**

Central to the life of the New Testament Church that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, established 2,000 years ago is the Great Commission “to make disciples of all nations” and, particularly, “teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you,” (Matthew 28:18-20). At Christ the Redeemer (CTR) Anglican Church in Fort Worth, Texas, we have whole-heartedly embraced our Lord’s Commission as part of our parish mission statement.

This life of discipleship begins at our baptism, when we are made members of Christ’s one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. By our baptism, we enter as individuals into a community, a living organism where we are the Body and Christ is the Head, where our Christian life is not ours alone, but it is a participation in and continuation of the “faith once for all delivered to the saints,” (Jude 1:3), principally consisting of three elements: Word, Sacrament, and Spirit.

While it is expected that every baptized Christian grows into a mature disciple in his or her life and witness (Ephesians 4:11-16), it is essential to the life of a healthy disciple-making congregation that those in positions of leadership especially represent the teachings of our Lord at all times, in all places, and to all people.

In his First Pastoral Epistle to Timothy, Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul outlines qualifications and character traits of good clergy leadership. CTR accepts this biblical depiction of good leadership as guiding principles for lay leadership also and those entering into this Covenant are encouraged to read the same. Moreover, as St. Paul admonishes that one in leadership ought not to be a “recent convert” to the faith, in keeping with spirit of this idea, CTR generally requires membership in its parish for a period of one year before being eligible for leadership positions.

In accordance with Holy Scripture, the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) and the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth (ACNA), CTR adopts the following Leadership Covenant Lay Leaders. The Rector shall apply this Covenant at his discretion.

## **Word**

### **Section 1 - Concerning Ministry (ACNA Canons)**

The people of God are the chief agents of the Mission of the Church to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people everywhere will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The effective ministry of the Church is the responsibility of the laity no less than it is the responsibility of Bishops and other Clergy. It is incumbent for every lay member of the Church to become an effective minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, one who is spiritually qualified, gifted, called, and mature in the faith. Each diocese may establish standards for the ministry of the laity.

### **Section 2 - Concerning Duties of the Laity (ACNA Canons)**

With the help of God’s grace, it shall be the duty of every member of the Church:

1. To worship God, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, every Lord’s Day in a Church unless reasonably prevented;
2. To engage regularly in the reading and study of Holy Scripture and the Doctrine of the Church as found in Article I of the Constitution of this Church;
3. To pray regularly for their needs and those of others, for the Church and its mission, and for the concerns of the world;
4. To observe their baptismal vows, to lead an upright and sober life, and not give scandal to the Church;
5. To present their children and those they have led to the Lord for baptism and confirmation;
6. To give regular financial support to the Church, with the biblical tithe as the minimum standard of giving;
7. To practice forgiveness daily according to our Lord’s teaching;
8. To receive worthily the Sacrament of Holy Communion as often as reasonable;
9. To observe the feasts and fasts of the Church set forth in the Anglican formularies;
10. To affirm and follow the biblical standards of sexual morality and ethics in Canon II.8;\*
11. To continue their instruction in the Faith so as to remain an effective minister for the Lord Jesus Christ;
12. To serve their neighbor, sacrificially demonstrating the love of Christ to the poor, the sick and those in need.
13. To devote themselves to the ministry of Christ and the proclamation of the Gospel among those who do not know Him, utilizing the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives them, for the effective extension of Christ’s Kingdom.

## **\*Canon 8 Of Standards of Sexual Morality and Ethics**

**Section 1** - Clergy and lay leaders of this Church are called to be exemplary in all spheres of morality as a condition of being appointed or remaining in office.

**Section 2** - In view of the teaching of Holy Scripture, the Lambeth Conference of 1998 and the Jerusalem Declaration, this Church upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage, and cannot legitimize or bless same sex unions or ordain persons who engage in homosexual behavior. Sexual intercourse should take place only between a man and a woman who are married to each other.

**Section 3** - God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all members and clergy are called to promote and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.

**Section 4** - The Church is called upon to show Christ-like compassion to those who have fallen into sin, encouraging them to repent and receive forgiveness, and offering the ministry of healing to all who suffer physically or emotionally as a result of such sin.

## **Sacrament**

### **The Council of Florence A.D. 1439**

Sacraments are often described as outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace, ordained by Christ himself, an understanding attributed to Augustine of Hippo. Moreover, Sacraments are known to be the “normal means of grace” in the life of the Church by which Christ communicates himself to us, meaning that Christ has made other means of grace available to us, particularly and principally the hearing and receiving of his Word, with repentance and faith.

Article 1 of the ACNA Constitution declares: “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 unflinching use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him. These two - Baptism and the Supper of the Lord - are commonly called Dominical Sacraments, meaning they are expressly instituted by Christ in the Gospels.

In accordance with the Undivided Church of the first 1,000 years of Christendom and the perpetual teaching concerning the same in the Roman Catholic Communion, the Orthodox Communion, and in many parts of the Anglican Communion, CTR also upholds the five Sacraments, sometimes known as Ecclesiastical Sacraments, which are also evidenced in the New Testament and dispensed according to our stations in life. These are: Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the sick, Marriage, and Holy Orders.

## **Spirit**

As the Holy Spirit is active in regeneration at our baptism, bringing us from spiritual death to life, so He remains working in us, through us, and among us in this transitory life, with charisms, gifts, and fruit for the advance of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

The Charisms of the Holy Spirit are found in Isaiah 11:1-3 and are as follows:

1. **Wisdom** – the enlightening of the mind by divine revelation that helps us see God’s view of the world.
2. **Understanding** – from the initial enlightening of the mind by Divine Revelation, which gives us a right world-view, comes the ability to specifically discern Good and evil, knowing what are God’s ways.
3. **Counsel** – in the context of wisdom and understanding, counsel is the ability to receive and give good advice, empowering us to make right judgments in life’s situations.
4. **Fortitude** – the courage, strength, and zeal to face the trials and temptations we encounter.
5. **Knowledge** – a deep trust and sureness about God, which comes from the constant study of Scripture.
6. **Piety** – the ability to see God’s holiness in other people and express charity toward them.
7. **Fear of the Lord** – as the Scriptures declare that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10) this charism could rightly be listed first; however, it might equally be listed last, for it may also be seen as the culmination of the other charisms working together, which produce in us a right understanding of God - *the fear of the Lord* – as in a child’s fear of offending his Father (St. Thomas Aquinas), rather than a fear of punishment.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are most especially found in Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12 and are as follows:\*

- |                |               |                         |                            |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Prophecy    | 5. Giving     | 9. Knowledge            | 13. Discernment of Spirits |
| 2. Service     | 6. Leadership | 10. Faith               | 14. Speaking in Tongues    |
| 3. Teaching    | 7. Mercy      | 11. Healing             | 15. Interpreting Tongues   |
| 4. Exhortation | 8. Wisdom     | 12. Working of Miracles |                            |

*\*There is some overlapping of Charisms and Gifts. See Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow by C. Peter Wagner for terms, definitions, and teachings.*

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are found in Galatians 5:22-23 and are as follows:\*

- |             |                 |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love     | 5. Kindness     | 9. Self-control |
| 2. Joy      | 6. Goodness     |                 |
| 3. Peace    | 7. Faithfulness |                 |
| 4. Patience | 8. Gentleness   |                 |

*\*These terms are to be understood as described in the context of Holy Scripture*

## Conclusion

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **and teaching them to obey ALL that I have commanded you**, and behold, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.’” - Matthew 28:18-20

### AGREED AND ACCEPTED

I accept this Leadership Covenant and agree to abide by, defend, and advance the teachings of the Christian Faith as outlined in this Covenant and elsewhere in Scripture.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

PRINTED NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_