

Considering Fellowship and Affiliation with
The Diocese of Cascadia



Dear Friends,

Thank you for seeking God's will in prayerfully discerning if you should join our fellowship and become affiliated with our Diocese of Cascadia in the Anglican Church in North America. We welcome clergy and congregations who want to worship in the Anglican tradition and be part of our mission to reach the people of North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. Cascadia, the ACNA geographical diocese representing the Northwestern United States and Alaska, does this through encouraging local ministries, planting new churches and participating in provincial and international ministries. We also recognize the validity of our fellow workers in the field by accepting and honoring baptisms and adult professions of faith from other Christian denominations and participating in ecumenical relationships. Clergy from other denominations who seek to join us will have their previous training and experience considered by the Bishop for in determining what additional training and certification may be required to be received or ordained as Anglican clergy.

Your discernment should begin with learning about the faith, doctrine and ministries of the Anglican Church in North America and we have provided the key documents and links in this letter. Then, if you can accept and affirm our Anglican way, you should contact my office to arrange a visit to your church by either the Bishop or his representative. Following that visit, you can proceed by following the steps outlined below.

I pray that God will bless and guide you in this process and I give thanks for your desire to consider joining us to love and serve our Lord in the Anglican Tradition.

Yours in Christ,

+Kevin

What You Need to Do

1. Read and review the documents provided below about the Diocese of Cascadia and the faith and ministry of the Anglican Church in North America.
2. Review online the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA ([HERE](#)) and the Diocese of Cascadia ([HERE](#))
3. Arrange a visit with the Bishop or his representative.
4. Pray with your governing body (vestry, board, Elders, etc.) and pass a resolution seeking affiliation with the Diocese of Cascadia (sample below)
5. Include in your resolution your vision and expectations for shared ministry, training, mutual support networks and willingness to participate within the greater diocese.
6. Complete Congregation Membership Report and submit with resolution seeking affiliation with the Diocese of Cascadia (form below).

The Diocese of Cascadia

The Diocese of Cascadia is a group of 18 worshipping communities located in Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Only four were formerly affiliated with the Episcopal Church. The others were either planted or came from other continuing Anglican bodies.

The Diocese holds an annual Synod which is the highest governing body below the national church. We have a Diocesan Council made up of four lay leaders and four clergy. Council meets every other month.

We hold well-attended annual retreats for men and for women during the Springtime.

Our most significant mission outreach is our companion diocese relationships with The Anglican Diocese of Recife, Brazil and the Yangon Diocese of the Province of Myanmar. We exchange nearly annual mission/teaching trips with both in our very close relationships.

In addition to our relationships with our companion dioceses, we participate in:

The American Anglican Council, The Anglican Relief and Development Fund, Anglican Global Mission Partners, Five Talents, Trinity School for Ministry and The Church's Ministry to Jewish people (CMJ).

Cascadia attends Global Anglican Futures Conferences (GAFCON) when this world body of orthodox Anglicans meet every five years. The next meeting is in Jerusalem in 2018.

The Anglican Church in North America

The ACNA is described in our Provincial website as:

The Anglican Church in North America unites 112,000 Anglicans in nearly 1,000 congregations across the United States, Canada, and Mexico into a single Church. On April 16, 2009 it was recognized as a province of the global Anglican Communion, by the Primates of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach is the Archbishop of the Church.

What we stand for

Members of the Anglican Church in North America are in the mainstream, both globally and historically, of Christianity – the biblically-faithful way of following Jesus and being part of the “One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.” As Anglicans, this orthodoxy is defined by and centered on our church’s classic formularies – the Book of Common Prayer, including the Ordinal, and the Thirty-nine Articles – which all point back to the authority of the Holy Bible and articulate foundational principles of the Anglican tradition throughout the world. We wholeheartedly embrace the Jerusalem Declaration, the founding declaration of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans.

The ACNA, reflecting the full spectrum of conservative Anglicanism found in provinces from Nigeria to Myanmar to Argentina, incorporates theological and liturgical traditions of Anglo Catholic, Evangelical, and Charismatic traditions. In unity with these many provinces, the ACNA offices of archbishop and bishops are held only by men while individual dioceses are allowed to

choose whether or not women may serve as priests or deacons. The ACNA is united both with other conservative Anglican Provinces and the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist and other Evangelical denominations in being pro-life on abortion and euthanasia and defining Christian marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman.

**The ACNA subscribes fully to the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON)
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.

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.

The ACNA states the following regarding its Theology:

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, the Anglican Church in North America identifies the following seven elements as characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 the 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.

"The Anglican Communion," Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher wrote, "has no peculiar thought, practice, creed or confession of its own. It has only the Catholic Faith of the ancient Catholic Church, as preserved in the Catholic Creeds and maintained in the Catholic and Apostolic constitution of Christ's Church from the beginning." It may licitly teach as necessary for salvation nothing but what is read in the Holy Scriptures as God's Word written or may be proved thereby. It therefore embraces and affirms such teachings of the ancient Fathers and Councils of the Church as are agreeable to the Scriptures, and thus to be counted apostolic. The Church has no authority to innovate: it is obliged continually, and particularly in times of renewal or reformation, to return to "the faith once delivered to the saints."

To be an Anglican, then, is not to embrace a distinct version of Christianity, but a distinct way of being a "Mere Christian," at the same time evangelical, apostolic, catholic, reformed, and Spirit-filled. ([ACNA Theological Statement](#))

The ACNA has a Catechism to teach the Christian faith and practice

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism

([ACNA Catechism](#))

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Resolved, that the congregation of _____

Church in (city, state) hereby affirms the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America and the

Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Cascadia and directs the Senior Warden or responsible lay leader

to make application to affiliate with the Diocese of Cascadia.

See #3 above.

Signature of Clergy-in-Charge *Date*

Signature of Senior Warden or Lay Leader *Date*

CONGREGATION MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Name of Congregation: Size (ASA):

Mailing Address:

Meeting Address:

Office Email: Web Address:

Office Phone: Fax:

Name of Clergy/Rector/Church Planter:

Clergy Address:

Clergy Cell Phone: Clergy Email:

Present Canonical Residence:

List any other clergy on staff, full or part-time, their duties, and their canonical residence:

Name of Senior Warden or Lay Leader:

Address:

Cell Phone: Email:

List any other Anglican Affiliations of your congregation:

Have you incorporated as a state non-profit corporation?

Do you have a 501(c)3 Federal Tax Exemption?

Has the congregation obtained its own bank accounts and is it handling its own money?

Has the congregation obtained property and liability insurance in its name?