

SAINT ANDREW DECLARATION

Preamble

The Church of Jesus Christ has been present in Scotland for over 1,600 years. For over a century following the Reformation, the church in Scotland, and Scotland's monarch, wrestled over the order of the church: was it to be Presbyterian or Episcopalian? Presbyterianism was suppressed after the restoration during the reigns of Charles II and James VII, but the Presbyterian ordering of the Church of Scotland was confirmed under William and Mary in 1690. Episcopalianism was suppressed, particularly after the Jacobite uprisings in 1715 and 1745; a small Episcopalian church survived in Scotland, and English immigration saw the establishment of Qualified Chapels which used the English liturgy. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Church of Scotland was racked by division, focused on questions of patronage and the relationship between church and state, while the nineteenth century saw a gradual consolidation of the small Episcopal Church in Scotland.

Whilst the ecclesiastical, social and political landscape has been shaped and reshaped on innumerable occasions, the calling of the Church to serve the people of Scotland in ministry and mission has remained a constant. The Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church have now established a bilateral conversation expressed in the Our Common Calling Working Group. In the course of our discussions we have acknowledged our shared history and have named past conflicts, divisions and hurts. In so doing, we have learned from one another and have asked forgiveness of each other where we have caused pain by our words and actions. Within the context of these discussions, we have acknowledged that the theological, sacramental and liturgical emphases within our respective churches are consonant with the tradition which each represents. Alongside this, we have sought to acknowledge that our churches belong together as part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ. In so acknowledging, we seek to explore ways in which we may better work together as partners in ministry and mission, to serve Christ by serving the people of Scotland.

Declaration

In the light of our common calling within the life of the Church of Jesus Christ in Scotland, shaped by our understanding of the mission of God, our agreement in faith and the opportunities to share in ministry and mission, we make the following Declaration:

We, the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church, make the following acknowledgements and commitments, which are interrelated.

A) Acknowledgements:

- i. We acknowledge one another's churches as churches belonging to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ and truly participating in the apostolic mission of the whole people of God.
- ii. We acknowledge that our churches share in the common confession of the Apostolic Faith.
- iii. We acknowledge that in our churches the Word of God is authentically preached, and the sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Communion are faithfully administered.
- iv. We acknowledge one another's ordained ministries as possessing not only the inward call of the Spirit but also Christ's commission through the Church and are given by God as instruments of grace for the mission and unity of the Church.
- v. We acknowledge that personal, collegial and communal oversight (episkope) is embodied and exercised in our churches in a variety of forms, as a visible sign expressing and serving the Church's unity and continuity in apostolic life, ministry and mission.
- vi. We acknowledge that our unity is as yet imperfect and look forward to the time when the fuller visible unity of our churches may be realised.

B) Commitments:

We commit ourselves to respond together to our common calling to proclaim the reign of God to all the people of Scotland by strengthening our partnership in ministry and mission. Through this commitment, we hope to enrich our continuing relationships locally, nationally and internationally with the churches of Scotland and throughout the world, that we may deepen our individual faith and serve God's whole creation. We will welcome opportunities to draw other churches into the activities and initiatives that we share. As part of that commitment to seek appropriate ways to respond to our common calling within the life of the Church of Jesus Christ, we will continue:

- i. To pray for and with one another; to work towards the fuller sharing of ministry, and of spiritual, human, financial and physical resources;
- ii. To encourage, affirm and support local expressions of our common calling within the life of the Church as it participates in the mission of God, and to explore opportunities for new partnerships in the communities in which we serve;
- iii. To welcome one another's members to worship and participate in the congregational life of each other's churches;
- iv. To stimulate theological discussions between our churches, including on the outstanding issues hindering fuller communion;
- v. To work together in practical and prophetic ways on the social, political and ethical issues arising from our shared participation in public life;
- vi. To ensure that these commitments are followed through at every level of our church life; to allocate resources to joint initiatives, and to hold one another to account on what we have agreed to do.

In order to assist our churches in living out the Acknowledgements and Commitments of the Saint Andrew Declaration, we will appoint Co-Chairs and members of a Church of Scotland – Scottish Episcopal Church Working Group, whose purpose will be to encourage the development of our common calling

within the Church of Jesus Christ in Scotland. The Working Group will report annually to the Committee on Ecumenical Relations of the Church of Scotland and to the Inter-church Relations Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Joint meetings of church leaders will be held regularly, and we will welcome opportunities to draw other churches into the activities and initiatives that we share.

We see this as living out our response to the prayer of Jesus that we “may all be one . . . so that the world may believe” (John 17: 21). In faithfulness, we commit to remain open to wherever the Holy Spirit may be leading our churches.