



The American Anglican Council Parish Covenant

We affirm the Great Commission as the primary mission of the church.

- We affirm the need for everyone to come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We affirm the calling for each believer to be a personal witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- We affirm the responsibility of each congregation to equip each believer to share his or her faith.
- We call all parishes, dioceses, institutions and the national church to evaluate their ministry and structure in the light of the Great Commission.
- We commit ourselves to planting new churches.
- We commit ourselves to evangelizing unreached people groups.

We uphold the authority of scripture in the conduct of this mission.

- We affirm the need for all members of our congregations to have a working knowledge of the Bible.
- We exhort clergy to be faithful to biblical preaching and teaching.
- We encourage the placement of Bibles in the pew racks.
- We encourage each congregation to have a formal Bible study program.
- We encourage the establishment of a Bible study for unchurched persons.
- We encourage each congregation to develop a mission strategy that is consistent with the principles of scripture.

We understand the parish as the primary base for the mission of the church. We urge each congregation to...

- adopt or raise up missionaries.
- to implement a parish mission education program
- to develop a mission statement
- to give 10% of its income (over and above diocesan assessments) to mission
- to encourage each parish member to participate in short-term missions.

We pledge ourselves to a Biblical social witness.

We urge each congregation to...

- begin or become part of a local outreach to the poor.
- courageously face the issues of racism and anti-Semitism within the Body of Christ.
- encourage ministries of mercy and justice on the part of individuals in the church.
- not abandon the inner cities of our dioceses.
- demonstrate active concern for the social issues in the community affecting families, women, men, youth, children, the unborn and the elderly.
- reach out and welcome all persons, regardless of sex, creed, race, sexual orientation or previous behavior, to discover healing and wholeness in Jesus Christ.

We bind ourselves to being instruments of Biblical unity in the body of Christ.

We encourage congregations to...

- seek out and build relationships with non-Episcopal congregations.
- join in cross-denominational strategy for mission with other local churches.
- seek, where appropriate, racial reconciliation and bridge building with congregations of different ethnic composition in the local community and diocese.
- become a bridge for bringing together local churches of different denominations.

We affirm that...

- the basis of our unity is the person of Jesus Christ.
- the person and cross of Jesus Christ offers the only genuine reconciliation to the world.