

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

We, the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of the Church of S. John the Evangelist, Newport—a church founded in the Anglo-Catholic tradition within the Anglican Communion and dedicated to the worship of Almighty God—do accept, witness, and proclaim our Declaration of Principles, and do make it known to all as our affirmation of and witness to the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

These we do affirm:

I. The Authority of Holy Scripture as the Word of God, summarized in the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, taught by the Fathers, and defined in the General Councils of the Church.

II. The Catholic Creeds (listed above) as binding every member of the Church to a specific, personal conviction and commitment.

III. The Holy Sacraments as the guaranteed means of Grace through which Christ is known and present, and especially:

Holy Baptism with water in the name of the Holy Trinity, and Confirmation by a Bishop in the Apostolic line as the seal of the Holy Spirit in completion of Baptism as the total pattern of the Christian tradition.

The Holy Eucharist validly celebrated by a Bishop of the Apostolic line or a Priest ordained by such a Bishop.

The Holy Orders of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon, bestowed upon men according to the universal practice of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and as intended by the traditional Anglican Book of Common Prayer, and

Holy Matrimony as a life-long and exclusive relationship intended to be celebrated only between a man and a woman as a reflection of the relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church, and which is the only appropriate context for sexual relations, for the reasons set for in the traditional Anglican Book of Common Prayer.

IV. The Integrity of the Episcopate in its sacramental functions and as evangelist and guardian of the Church's faith and moral teaching.

V. The traditional Anglican Book of Common Prayer and the administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, not only as a common liturgy, but as a standard of doctrine and a bond of fellowship, allowing prudent revision and diverse forms and usages, provided that the substance of the Faith be kept entire.

Nor will we seek to abandon or circumvent any of the above Principles, lest we fall into breach of Communion or schism intolerable to the faithful body of the Church.

We hold these Principles, as did those who went before us, as binding beyond compromise those ordained as its stewards and trustees for the common and equal benefit of all.

Obedient to these principles, we pledge ourselves to the perpetuation of the Holy Catholic Church and do pray the witness and support of the faithful throughout the world.