



Confessing Churches Covenant

In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit:

We, as congregations of the Church of Scotland, express our loyalty to Christ Jesus, the only King and Lord of the Church. We affirm the eternal gospel of the kingdom as the good news of salvation, liberation and transformation from sin for all who believe, and we embrace the commission of Jesus to his church to make true disciples, calling people to repentance and faith in his gospel, and teaching them obedience to all that he has commanded through his apostles.

We covenant to stand together in promoting and protecting the biblical gospel, and our mission to Scotland and to the world, solemnly declaring the following in reaffirmation of our historic identity as the Church of Scotland.

1. We rejoice in the gospel of God through which we are 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 gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Saviour 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.
3. 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 therefore to be translated, read, preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading.
4. 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, and the Westminster Confession of Faith as agreeing with Scripture and expressing the true doctrine of our Church, as its subordinate standard.
5. 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 baptise, teach and bring new believers to maturity. We are mindful of our particular responsibility to the people of Scotland, and are committed to seeing living churches planted, nurtured and matured through the proclamation of the gospel, and a new generation of evangelists, pastors and missionaries sent into the harvest field for the advance of the Kingdom of Christ.
6. We celebrate the God-given unity in diversity among those devoted to the true gospel of Christ. We are therefore committed to fellowship with all those who love and obey the Lord Jesus Christ, and to building authentic ecumenical partnerships with all congregations who cherish and proclaim the transforming and liberating gospel of Christ.
7. We acknowledge our calling to shine as lights in the world, demonstrating the true life of the Kingdom of God within our churches, and also our responsibility to love our neighbours and to be good stewards of God's whole creation. We therefore embrace our duty to society, to promote that which is good, healthy and just in public life, and to oppose that which is harmful to individuals and damaging to the welfare of our communities as a whole.
8. We recognize 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 acknowledge the great harm that has come from our failures to maintain this standard, and we repent and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.
9. We reject the authority of those 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.
10. 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.