



Anglican Catechist Training School
1300 E. Shaw Ave. #174
Fresno, CA 93710



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Anglican Catechist Training School. The mission of ACTS is . . .

The Anglican Catechist Training School equips laity to teach the Christian faith in the Anglican tradition using To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism.

Primarily when we think of catechists, we think of people being called to a teaching ministry in the local congregation. Catechesis goes beyond just teaching doctrine and involves the formation of the whole person into the image of Christ; therefore, those who complete the ACTS program may be called to spiritual direction, pastoral counseling and inner healing, ministering to the poor and infirmed, evangelism and church planting. In addition to deepening one’s understanding of the doctrines of the Christian faith, the ACTS Program provides students with opportunities to engage in spiritual practices and regular mentoring with one’s clergy, who will provide spiritual direction and apprenticeship in ministry. Teaching “the faith once delivered to the saints” is lacking and is greatly needed in God’s church today.

The ultimate aim of ACTS is to equip its graduates to:

- form members of the Church in a more mature and disciplined faith
- equip the Church to evangelize those who do not know Jesus as Lord
- continue to grow in their unique vocation as disciples for the sake of the Kingdom of God

The program incorporates three-dimensions, which all work together to form and prepare the student for the ministry of a Catechist and lay leader:

- Deepening of Biblical and Theological Knowledge
- Spiritual Formation
- Ministry Practicum

Overview of the Three Modules of ACTS

<p><u>Module 1: The Lord’s Prayer</u> <i>(Offered in fall for 9 sessions)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture, Tradition, Catholicity, Creeds, and Liturgy • The Fatherhood of God • The Kingdom of God • Spiritual Warfare • Trusting in God’s Provision • Growing in Grace: Repentance and Forgiveness • Prayer: Hearing God’s Voice • Praying the Psalms • Exam I 	<p><u>Module 2: The Ten Commandments</u> <i>(Offered in the winter for 5 sessions)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ten Commandments • The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount • A Christian View of humanity & sexuality • A Christian View of Justice • Completed <i>MinistrySafe</i> training, a live scan, and a background check • Exam II 	<p><u>Module 3: The Apostles’ Creed</u> <i>(Offered in the spring for 9 sessions)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trinity • God the Father & Creator • God the Son & Salvation • God the Holy Spirit and the gifts • The Church & Communion of Saints • The Sacraments • Heaven • How to Create a Catechism Course • Exam III
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Class meetings: Each class will meet via Zoom on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:45. Module 1 begins August 17. See the syllabus for each course for specific dates.

Costs:

Module 1	\$225	The TOTAL COST for the year-long course (including the retreat) is \$850. Students are responsible to purchase their own books.
Module 2	\$150	
Module 3	\$225	
Mandatory ACTS Retreat Fee	\$250	

A limited number of scholarships are available, but students are encouraged to *first* ask their vestries for assistance. Fees can be paid module by module.

Required Texts:

- *To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism*
- *The Book of Common Prayer* (2019)
- *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* by Andrew Murray (Very short book.)
- *The Anglican Way*, by Thomas McKenzie (Module 1)
- *Thy Will Be Done: The Ten Commandments & the Christian Life* by Gilbert Meilaender (Module 3)
- *Theology: The Basics* by Alister McGrath (Module 3)

Flipped Classroom Model:

Preparation for Class Meeting	Lesson Format for Class Meeting
<p>READ: Each week you will read and reflect from the following for all three modules.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scripture (assigned from OT, Psalm, NT, Gospel)2. Prayer Book (various short portions)3. To Be A Christian (Write 1-2 engaging questions to be submitted on Google Classroom.)4. Textbook chapter or Article(s) <p>WATCH:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Lesson Video (from the teacher who will lead upcoming class)6. Other video viewing (On occasion) <p>WRITE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Online Forum Question (to be posted on Google Classroom)8. Mentoring with Clergy – Reflect on/complete a Google Form Mentor log 3 days before you meet with clergy for mentoring. <p>SPIRITUAL FORMATION PRACTICES</p>	<p>Students will do several of the following during the class meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in a prayer practice such as centering prayer or lectio Divina• Discuss the evening’s essential question• Teacher reviews main points of the topic• Students review the questions from TBAC and discuss student-generated questions that were used as entry tickets.• Teacher leads the class in an interactive activity such as an Expert jigsaw, See-Think-Wonder, or discussion in breakout rooms• Students help to lead discussions while reviewing TBAC – <i>To Be A Christian</i>.• Plenary Session -- students discuss other questions they submitted as entry tickets.• Students revisit the Essential Question at the end.

Your first step in filling out the ACTS application is to PRAY. Seek the Lord as to whether participation in this program is what he has for you this year. As you pray, ask the Lord to show you what things you may need to lay aside for a season to engage in this year of study and learning. Next, you will need to make an appointment with your rector (or deacon if there is no rector) to not only confirm your call to join ACTS, but also to find out his or her availability to walk with you on this journey as a mentor.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at all.

God’s peace,



Cn. Elizabeth Conkle
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