



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 . . .

To equip and release the laity to minister as catechists and lay leaders within the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin to hand down the faith wholly and holistically in order to make disciples.

Primarily when we think of catechists, we think of people being called to a teaching ministry in the local congregation, which may include teaching youth and adult catechism classes, leading Alpha Groups, or Bible studies. This ministry is greatly lacking and is much needed in God’s church today.

However, catechesis is far greater than just teaching doctrine. Catechesis involves the formation of the whole person into the image of Christ; therefore, licensed catechists may be called to spiritual direction, intercession, pastoral counseling and inner healing, ministering to the poor and infirmed, evangelism and church planting. Since these ministries can only bear fruit by the leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, students engage in spiritually formative practices throughout the year that enables them to hear God’s voice and follow his leading. This includes meeting a minimum of once a month with their clergy, who will apprentice them in ministry and provide spiritual direction.

The first year of ACTS consists of three modules, which prepares the student for licensing as a Catechist in the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin. The program incorporates three-dimensions:

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

Each dimension works with the others in forming and preparing the student for the ministry of a Catechist and lay leader.

If students are seeking licensure as a catechist in the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin, they will need to pass a three-part exam on the four parts of *To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism* in addition to completing the three module courses of ACTS. Each exam is administered at the end of each of the three modules.

Overview of the ACTS Modules

Module 1: The Apostles’ Creed

(Offered in the fall for 12 weeks)

- Scripture, Tradition, Catholicity and Creeds
- The Trinity
- God the Father & Creator
- God the Son & Salvation
- God the Holy Spirit and the gifts
- The Church & the Communion of Saints
- The Sacraments
- Heaven
- Exam I

Module 2: The Lord’s Prayer

(Offered in winter for 6 weeks)

- 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 II

Module 3: The Ten Commandments

(Offered in the spring for 6 weeks)

- The Ten Commandments
- The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount
- A Christian View of humanity & sexuality
- A Christian View of Justice
- Pedagogical Approaches & Creating How to a Catechism Course
- Exam III

Costs:

There is a one-time application fee of \$25. Module 1 costs \$250 and Modules 2 & 3 each costs \$125 (a total cost of \$500 for the year-long program). Costs for each module is payable by the first night of each course. Students are responsible to purchase books and other materials as well as pay for their retreat fees at the end of the year. There are a limited number of scholarships available, but students are first encouraged to ask their church vestries for assistance.

Class meetings: Each class will meet via Zoom the first and third Tuesday of each month with a few exceptions. See the syllabus for each course for specific dates.

Independent Study: In addition to class meetings, students will engage in independent study, which includes weekly reading, video viewing, reflecting, spiritual formation practices, and ministry practicums. Students should plan for 20 to 25 hours per month of independent study. Textbooks for each course are listed in each course syllabus, but each course will require students to read, study, and reflect on three primary texts:

1. The Bible
2. *To Be A Christian*
3. *The 2019 Book of Common Prayer.*

Your first step in filling out the ACTS application is prayer. 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 in order 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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Canon for Catechetical Formation
Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin
(559) 455-7346*