



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



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for ACTS (Anglican Catechist Training School). The goal of the ACTS program is to effectively partner with ordained clergy in training, equipping, and sending out lay leaders within the Anglican context to effectively serve in local congregations, discipling and teaching others the basics of the Christian faith.

Anglicanism is rooted in the spirituality and communal practices of ancient monasticism. In keeping with such tradition, the ACTS program seeks to provide a program that is spiritually formative, in addition to developing one's knowledge of Christian doctrine. Thus, ACTS is a **three-dimensional course**, consisting of **spiritual formation and mentoring, cultivation of biblical and theological knowledge, and ministry practicum**. Each dimension works with the others in forming and preparing the student for the ministry of a Catechist and lay leader. This year-long program consists of hands-on training and mentoring with clergy, developing a rule of life, engaging in regular Christian disciplines, independent study that includes reading and online interaction, and face-to-face instruction. The face-to-face meetings occur once a month either in person or via Zoom on Saturdays.

**Components of the ACTS program:**

**Cost:** \$200 per year – If the cost presents a hardship for an applicant, that person is encouraged to seek assistance from his or her congregation first. If the congregation is not able to help, there are also a limited number of partial scholarships available from ACTS. Each student is required to pay a minimum of a third of their tuition from their own resources. We tend to place more value on things that costs us.

**Class meetings:** One mandatory Zoom meeting during the third week of August, nine face-to-face or Zoom Saturday meetings, and one retreat (in lieu of the regular class meeting).

**Independent Study:** Includes monthly reading, reflecting and interacting with others online. Students should plan for 20 to 25 hours per month of independent study.

Required Reading:

Murray, Andrew. *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

McGrath, Alistar. *Theology: The Basics*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Oxford: Wiley Blackwell. 2018

McKenzie, Thomas. *The Anglican Way: A Guidebook*. Nashville, TN: Colony Catherine, Inc. 2014.

Packer, J. I. *Keeping the Ten Commandments*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway. 2007

Packer, J. I. *Praying the Lord's Prayer*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway. 2007

*The Book of Common Prayer* (ACNA, June 2019)

*To Be A Christian: An Anglican Catechism* by Catechesis Task Force Anglican Church in North America (2014-06-30). Available in PDF version online at [anglicanchurch.net](http://anglicanchurch.net).

One more book may be added to the reading.

Online ACTS Course Pack with various assigned readings will be posted online.

**Mentoring:** Formation and discipleship take place in relationships. Students are required to meet a minimum of once a month with their clergy, who will apprentice them in ministry and provide spiritual direction. In preparation for their mentor meeting, they will prayerfully complete a mentor log, which contents they will discuss with their mentor.

**Praxis:** Students will engage in a number of new ministries and practices, including community outreach, in which they will have an opportunity to apply what they have learned. As a final signature assignment, each student will design a catechism to teach to a specific audience for a specific purpose.

**Rule:** A rule of life, rooted in the monastic tradition, defines the values and priorities that a person or a group of people seeks to live and be formed by. Each student in ACTS will develop their own rule for living in order to make space and priority for his or her relationship with God.

**Licensing:** In order to be licensed as a Lay Catechist in the Diocese of San Joaquin, you will need to complete the ACTS program and pass all three sections of the Catechist Exam.

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,

Beth Conkle, Pastoral Catechist  
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Director of ACTS