



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> <p>Scripture, Tradition, Catholicity, and Liturgy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 15. 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)
- *The Anglican Way*, by Thomas McKenzie (Module 1)
- *Thy Will Be Done: The Ten Commandments & the Christian Life* by Gilbert Meilaender (Module 2)
- *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>COMPLETE 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,

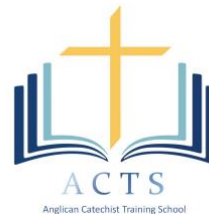


*Cn. Elizabeth Conkle
Pastoral Catechist & Director of ACTS
Canon for Catechetical Formation
Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin
(559)455-7346*



ACTS

Anglican Catechist Training School
Diocese of San Joaquin



APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION FOR YEAR 1

DUE Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Application fee waived returned and completed by Monday, July 15, 2024.

(Choose all that apply) I want to: ___ teach catechism; ___ be better prepared to do ministry; disciple others; ___ grow spiritually

Application Requirement for Seeking Licensing:

1. Completed Application which includes the following . . .
2. Assent to the Jerusalem Declaration (see at the bottom of this application)
3. Discernment with Clergy, who is over your congregation.
4. Completed Clergy Recommendation Form—Due the same date this application is due.
5. Application fee of \$25. Must be submitted with application.

FULL NAME: _____

Address: _____
Street Address (P.O. Box) City State Zip Code

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Name of Congregation: _____ Communicant in this parish since _____

Have you met and discerned with your clergy your call to catechetical or other ministry? If so, when was this meeting? _____

BAPTISM

Church: _____ City/State: _____ Date: _____

By _____

CONFIRMATION

Church: _____ City/State: _____ Date: _____

By _____

FAMILY

Marital Status (S) _____ (D) _____ (W) _____ (M) _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Date of Marriage: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

PERSONAL

Hobbies and Interests: _____

Organizations, societies, fraternal orders, etc. in which you participate or have participated:

Occupation: _____ How long: _____

Brief Work History: _____

EDUCATION

Academic institutions attended with diplomas, degrees or certificates:

NAME OF INSTITUTION

DIPLOMAS, DEGREES or CERTIFICATES

Answer the following questions in a separate document and attach to this application. (Typed answers are preferable.)

1. Give a brief account of your testimony and history of your spiritual development (approximately 1000 words).
2. How do you view the authority of Scripture?
3. Describe your major strengths and how they have helped you in your life and in your vocation?
4. Describe your weaknesses and how they have hindered you interpersonally and in your vocation.
5. Describe what you believe to be your spiritual gifts.
6. Describe your vision for ministry. Why would you like to be a catechist if that is one of your goals?

____ I have read and give my assent to the [Jerusalem Declaration](#) (at the link or below).

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed application including clergy recommendation (sent by one's clergy) and application fee of \$25 to the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin office *no later than* July 31, 2024! Applications and clergy references should be emailed to Cn. Elizabeth at eaconkle.acts@gmail.com.

If the application is received by Monday, July 15, 2024, the application fee will be waived.

Cn Elizabeth Conkle, ACTS, 5455 N. Marty Ave. #119, Fresno, CA 93711; 559-455-7346

THE JERUSALEM STATEMENT

Created in 2008 in Jerusalem at the first GAFCON gathering.

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

We, the participants in the Global Anglican Future Conference, have met in the land of Jesus' birth. We express our loyalty as disciples to the King of kings, the Lord Jesus. We joyfully embrace his command to proclaim the reality of his kingdom which he first announced in this land. The gospel of the kingdom is the good news of salvation, liberation and transformation for all. In light of the above, we agree to chart a way forward together that promotes and protects the biblical gospel and mission to the world, solemnly declaring the following tenets of orthodoxy which underpin our Anglican identity.

1. We rejoice in the gospel of God through which we have been 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 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 to be translated, read, preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading.
3. 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.
4. We uphold the Thirty-nine Articles as containing the true doctrine of the Church agreeing with God's Word and as authoritative for Anglicans today.
5. 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.
6. We rejoice in our Anglican sacramental and liturgical heritage as an expression of the gospel, and we uphold the 1662 Book of Common Prayer as a true and authoritative standard of worship and prayer, to be translated and locally adapted for each culture.
7. We recognise that God has called and gifted bishops, priests and deacons in historic succession to equip all the people of God for their ministry in the world. We uphold the classic Anglican Ordinal as an authoritative standard of clerical orders.
8. We acknowledge 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 repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.
9. 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.
10. We are mindful of our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, to uphold and advocate justice in society, and to seek relief and empowerment of the poor and needy.

11. We are committed to the unity of all those who know and love Christ and to building authentic ecumenical relationships. We recognise the orders and jurisdiction of those Anglicans who uphold orthodox faith and practice, and we encourage them to join us in this declaration.
12. We celebrate the God-given diversity among us which enriches our global fellowship, and we acknowledge freedom in secondary matters. We pledge to work together to seek the mind of Christ on issues that divide us.
13. We reject the authority of those churches and leaders 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.
14. 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.