

Lex orandi, lex credendi – As we pray, so we believe

Let us Pray

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (or of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- BCP 822

Our Baptismal Covenant

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

The political realities of our nation present us with opportunities and challenges. We are a nation founded on "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." We are called to be peacemakers in a nation at war. We are a country pledged to pursue "liberty and justice for all," but we are too often divided across lines of race, ethnicity, and economic inequality. We are a nation of immigrants, struggling to address the challenges of many new immigrants in our midst. We are a society built on the strength of our families, called to offer moral and economic supports for family life. We are a powerful nation in a violent world, confronting terror and trying to build a safer, more just, more peaceful world. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty and lack health care and other necessities of life. We are part of a global community charged with being good stewards of the earth's environment, which is being threatened. These challenges lie at the heart of public life and at the center of the pursuit of what we call *the common good*.

Among the issues outline in the statement above, which ones do I hold to be most important?

As Episcopalians, we are part of a community with a rich heritage that helps us consider the challenges in public life and contribute to greater justice and peace for all people.

**What parts of our heritage equip us to consider today's challenges?
What kinds of challenges have been faced by the Church in the past?**

What faith teaches about the dignity of the human person, about the sacredness of every human life, and about humanity's strengths and weaknesses helps us see more clearly the same truths that also come to us through the gift of human reason. At the center of these truths is respect for the dignity of every person. This is the core of Anglian moral and social teaching. Because we are people of faith, tradition, and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square.

What contemporary issues can be addressed by our core teaching on the dignity of every human being?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ, who offers a vision of life revealed to us in Scripture, tradition, and the gift of human reason.

How do I view the role of the Church in shaping the moral character of our society?

Notes:

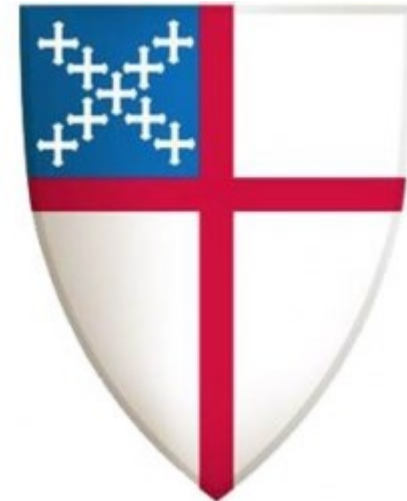
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St. Luke's Episcopal Church Adult Forum:

Political Responsibility

Faithful Citizenship



**Session 1: Why Does the Church Have Anything to Say
About Issues Affecting Public Policy?**

Discussion Guide