

## Gulf Atlantic Diocese Youth Leadership Statement of Beliefs

Thank you for your willingness to serve the youth in this diocese through these programs! We are thrilled to see the Lord at work in and through you. Please take a moment to consider the following statements and please answer honestly.

Our programs are supported by the Anglican Church, which holds the beliefs outlined below. In order to best serve you as well as these programs, we would like to know more about your own beliefs, openly recognizing each one of us doesn't know everything and is always seeking to grow closer to Christ. Please answer yes/no/I don't know to each of these statements.

Answering 'no' or 'I don't know' will not automatically disable you from serving in these programs. Your honest answers will give us knowledge regarding how we, and your home church, can minister to you. We recognize that everyone sins, including us, and we are grateful for God's grace and salvation through Jesus. But we take seriously the call to leadership in the church and therefore hold the expectation that those in positions of influence need to be sure that what we model for others represents a Christian way of living-out our faith. If there are seasons when leaders are not actively striving to uphold these beliefs, we will come alongside them as they step out of their influential role to seek guidance and accountability.

When finished, please submit by following the registration instructions given to you. These answers will be confidentially shared with the spiritual directors of the program and your pastor. If you have any questions, please talk to your youth director, pastor, or the leader of the program to which you are applying. Thank you!

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Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**," (Matt 22: 37). In the Anglican Church, the expectation is that we actively seek to live out the following **thoughts, words, and deeds**:

**God Desires a Personal Relationship with You** - "*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us.*" 1 John 4:10

Do you believe that God desires a personal relationship with you?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

Do you talk to God in prayer on your own (not just in church)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

Do you believe God can speak to you through the Bible, through other Christians, and through the Holy Spirit in you?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

**The Bible as God's Word-** *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness . . ." 2 Timothy 3:16*

Do you believe that the whole Bible is God's Word?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

Do you believe what the Bible teaches is true?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

Do you believe, when it is properly understood, that the Bible should be followed?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

**Jesus as the Only Savior-** *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6*

Do you believe that Jesus is the only way to salvation?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

**Faith in Jesus-** *"...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9*

As an adult (older than 13), have you taken the opportunity through baptism, or confirmation, or some other way to publicly claim Jesus is Lord of your life, recognizing that he is the one crucified for you and then raised from the dead? If so, how?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

**Sin-** The Old Testament gives us the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20) to help guide thoughts, words, and deeds of God's people. Jesus also teaches on thoughts, words, and deeds in his Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 5-7). Please consider the following virtues and vices:

Do you understand that greed (always wanting more) or the love of money itself, while it is normal in our culture, is not acceptable for Christians? (see Luke 12:15 and Matt 6)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

Do you understand that holding on to anger or seeking retaliation is not righteous?  
(see Matt 5, Eph 4, James 1, Prov 29, Col 3, Prov 15, James 4)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

Do you understand Christians are called to love their enemies, and to do to others as they would have others do to them? (see Matt 5-6)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

As Christians we seek to walk in Christ properly, making no provision for the flesh or to gratify its desires (see Romans 13, 1 Cor 6, Gal 5, Matt 6-7).

Do you agree that engaging in behaviors such as drunkenness, recreational use of drugs, sexual immorality, pornography or objectification of others, and vulgar speech, are out of bounds for you as a Christian?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

Do you believe that sex [becoming one flesh] should be only for a man and woman within marriage, a clear biblical teaching that is contrary to much of what the culture says? (see Matt 19:4-5)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

**Repentance and Forgiveness-** *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:8-9

We all sin against God, even though we are Christians. Will you promise to continually repent and confess your sins to God, and trust that he will forgive you when you do?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know; *feel free to explain:*

We cannot, however, simply continue sinning (see Romans 6:1-4); we must strive to sin no more. Do you have a home church that teaches you to walk in newness of life, and seeks to hold you accountable in your words and deeds?

- Yes, name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_
- No

Is there anything you'd like to expound upon or clarify? Anything you'd like us to know? Feel free to use this space to discuss any 'No' or 'I don't know' answers.

Understand it is our hope that you will be able to affirm each of these statements by answering Yes, and that in order to serve in the positions of influence whereby you will directly lead others in Christlike behavior and faith, affirmative answers will be required, showing that you believe these things to be true and that as a Christian you will strive to live them out daily. All of us sin, all of us are broken, we all struggle. It is important to have accountability in community with those who will walk with us throughout our journey with the Lord and in leadership.

We will always affirm you as one deeply loved by God and by us; however, if you enter a struggling season where you are unable to uphold these beliefs in your daily walk, or are openly living contrary to any of them, we will ask you to refrain from serving in leadership positions until you are recommitted to these beliefs and are actively seeking Christian community.

Please sign below indicating your understanding of these expectations. Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_