

Didasko Presbytery

- **We are a Fellowship of congregations**, united in the communion of the one Spirit and committed to work, pray and support one another in the common mission of Christ to the people of Scotland and beyond.
- **We are a confessing Fellowship** in that as members we confess the faith of Christ crucified, stand firm for the biblical gospel, affirm the historic creeds of catholic Christianity, and hold as a subordinate standard the Westminster Confession of Faith (Scripture itself being the only ultimate authority and standard).
- **We are a covenanting Fellowship** in that as congregations we covenant together to support one another in remaining faithful to these standards, not denying our only Lord and Master Jesus Christ in our ministry and practice, but actively submitting to his word in Scripture as the supreme rule of faith and life for all, and calling others similarly to the obedience of faith.
- **We affirm** the contemporary rule of Christ Jesus as the sole King and Head of his Church, and acknowledge that all leaders of the church are subject to him and to his authority, expressed in Scripture which is the supreme rule of faith and life. We are members of his body, the church, only through his grace and mercy, and are called to trust and obey him at all times.
- **We affirm** the primacy of the local church as God's vehicle for mission in the world and call on one another to affirm the true and real rule of the one Lord Jesus Christ and, with all faithful congregations, to reform and revitalise our churches and expand Christ's mission to Scotland and to the world. We believe that true unity is not found through complex structure but through communal submission to Scripture, and collective service with and to one another.
- **We affirm** that the task of mission, as commanded by our Lord, is to 'make disciples of all nations', 'teaching' all who belong to Christ's Church through baptism 'to obey all that Christ has commanded.' Therefore we hold that the chief task of ministry is the teaching of the word of God: didasko, – to teach – proclaiming the whole counsel of God in our churches, publicly and privately, in large gatherings and small, to young and old, and preserving and passing on this ministry by entrusting it to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

The Didasko Fellowship Covenant

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

We, as congregations of Christ's Church in Scotland, express our loyalty to Christ Jesus, the only King and Lord of the Church. We affirm the eternal gospel of the kingdom as the good news of salvation, liberation and transformation from sin for all who believe, and we embrace the commission of Jesus to his church to make true disciples, calling people to repentance and faith in his gospel, and teaching them obedience to all that he has commanded through his apostles.

We covenant to stand together in promoting and protecting the biblical gospel, and our mission to Scotland and to the world, solemnly declaring the following:

1. We rejoice in the gospel of God through which we are 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 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.
3. 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 therefore to be translated, read, preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading.
4. Subject always to the supreme authority of Scripture, and recognising the Church must always be reforming itself in accordance with the Scriptures, 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, and the Westminster Confession of Faith, containing the sum and substance of the Reformed Church, as the subordinate standard for our churches.
5. 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.
We are mindful of our particular responsibility to the people of Scotland, and are committed to seeing living churches formed, nurtured and matured through the proclamation of the gospel, and a new generation of evangelists, pastors and missionaries sent into the harvest field for the advance of the Kingdom of Christ.
6. We celebrate the God-given unity in diversity among all those devoted to obeying the true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore although our churches share a common heritage and history which binds us together as a family of congregations with particular commitment to one another, we nevertheless warmly welcome fellowship with all those who love and obey the Lord Jesus, and are open to building authentic partnerships with all churches who cherish and proclaim the transforming and liberating gospel of Christ.
7. We acknowledge our calling to shine as lights in the world, demonstrating the true life of the Kingdom of God within our churches, and also our responsibility to love our neighbours and to be good stewards of God's whole creation. We therefore embrace our duty to society, to promote that which is good, healthy and just in public life, and to oppose that which is harmful to individuals and damaging to the welfare of our communities as a whole.
8. We recognise God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the only proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We affirm the equality in status of male and female alongside the God-ordained complementary roles Scripture teaches as distinctive for men and women within the domestic family and within the church as the household of God, this pattern being the one which most truly encourages both men and women to serve the Kingdom of God for his glory and praise.
9. In obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and his apostles, we must reject the authority of churches or leaders who would deny the orthodox faith in word or deed. We pray for all such and call on them to repent and return to the Lord.
10. 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 through the proclamation of the biblical gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.