

Mission Fellowship Covenant

Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic (DOMA) seeks to provide comfort, encouragement, and support to groups of biblically faithful persons within the geographic regions of the diocese (Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia and portions of North Carolina) who have begun to form a worshipping community but do not meet the criteria established in the canons of the diocese for either Congregations or Missions. Those groups (referred to as Mission Fellowships) that have the desire to develop their own unique identity and the expectation to grow large enough to become Missions or Congregations within DOMA are invited to work with the Great Commission Committee to realize this goal. The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic has designed the following Covenant to guide this process and enable these groups to build an intentional relationship with the GCC that will assist them in establishing sound ministry practices that will lead to greater growth and fruitfulness.

Any group applying to be accepted as a Mission Fellowship of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic must adopt the following covenant as a part of its application.

Mission Fellowship Covenant:

DOMA commits to:

- Provide oversight to the Mission Fellowship under the leadership of the Bishop of the diocese and the Great Commission Committee
- Provide encouragement to stand for and live into:
 - Historic Biblical Anglican Orthodoxy,
 - The formation of authentic Missional disciples through evangelism and life transformation
- Provide a list of supply clergy for the Mission Fellowship to make arrangements for sacramental ministry, including special events (weddings, baptisms and funerals) as needed.
- Include Mission Fellowship leaders in the DOMA database
- Conduct periodic training conferences:
 - Congregational Development
 - Organization, leadership and administration
 - Small group development

- Worship
- Provide “Growth” curricula and resources:
 - Alpha
 - Church Planting information
 - Development of visitor follow up system
- Assist with identification of the leadership team and eventually with the selection of a church planter.

Mission Fellowship Commits to:

- Subscribe to the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic Theological Statement as contained in the DOMA Constitution (listed below):

Article I Doctrine

We believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him.

We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.

We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with unfailing use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.

We confess the godly historic Episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.

We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian.

Concerning the seven Councils of the undivided Church, we affirm the teaching of the first four Councils, and the Christological clarifications of

the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.

We receive The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship.

We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, taken in their literal and grammatical sense, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief.

In all these things, we are determined by the help of God to hold and maintain, as the Anglican Way has received them, the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ.

- Select a leadership team to oversee the organizational aspects of a new worshipping community in consultation with the Great Commission Committee or coach.
- Attend Core Values, Vision Casting and Mission Development Workshops (and other DOMA sponsored church planting and development conferences) and from those conferences develop vision and mission statements and a Ministry Plan.
- Attend other church planting and church growth conferences when possible, such as the Anglican 1000 Summit and Exponential.
- Conduct a community needs assessment (e.g. Compassion by Design) in conjunction with the Great Commission Committee.
- Set up a bank account for contributions with both a treasurer and associate treasurer and file a quarterly financial statement with the DOMA Task Force for Mission Development and follow standards set by the DOMA Great Commission Committee.
- Implement the Alpha Course or an alternative form of intentional evangelism to reach non-Christian people within the surrounding community.
- Develop a network of reproducing small groups gathering for prayer, Bible Study and fellowship.

- Complete an assessment of potential clergy candidates in conjunction with the Great Commission Committee.
- Provide supply clergy the diocesan standard honorarium (currently \$200) and the applicable Internal Revenue Service allowance for mileage (currently 55.5 cents per mile), and any lodging expenses incurred by the clergy in support of the Mission Fellowship. Should the Mission Fellowship be unable to meet this compensation guideline, arrangements and approval of an acceptable standard should be made with the Chair of the Great Commission Committee.
- Work with church planter/clergy and Great Commission Committee to grow into a Mission or Congregation of DOMA.

Accountability:

The leadership of the Mission Fellowship agrees to maintain regular communication with the Great Commission Committee and to make a good faith effort to uphold its commitments under this covenant. All support commitments made by the diocese are contingent upon this communication and the consistent efforts of the Mission Fellowship.

Acceptance:

_____ Chair, Great Commission Committee

_____ Date

_____ Clergy or Lay Leader

_____ Name of Mission Fellowship

_____ Date