

COMMON GROUND COALITION/NETWORK/? PURPOSE AND MISSION STATEMENT

The Common Ground Coalition is a group of denominations, organizations, congregations, and individuals who believe that 21st century Christians need to stand together for the cause of Christ. We come from different denominational and theological traditions, but these distinctives are respected and appreciated, not a cause for division among us. The common ground upon which we stand is the affirmation of classical orthodox Christianity, summarized in these statements which we hold in common:

1. We affirm that there is unchanging truth that is known through Jesus Christ and God's revelation in Scripture
2. We affirm that the one God is Triune, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
3. We affirm that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior of the world who died and was bodily raised for the salvation of sinners as a gift received by grace through faith; therefore, salvation is through Christ alone
4. We affirm that the Bible is God's written word -- inspired, truthful, and the final authority for faith and life
5. We affirm that the Church, as the community of baptized believers whom our Lord has called and sent to make disciples of all people in His name, is essential to the fulfillment of the Great Commission
6. We affirm that the Church is called to seek justice for all, to extend God's compassion for those in need, and to work for peace among all nations and peoples
7. We affirm that God created us male and female, and that marriage is a divinely ordained lifelong covenant of fidelity between one man and one woman. God's gift of sexual intimacy is to be expressed solely within this bond of marriage
8. We affirm that every human life is a gift from God to be cherished and respected from conception to natural death

The common cause that inspires our join action includes these purposes/imperatives:

1. To re-engage the culture with a winsome defense of the Christian faith in a pluralistic society, persuading a skeptical culture that Christian moral influence can be beneficial in the social order, transforming the world through the presence of Christ in and through Christians
2. To proclaim the Gospel of Christ's redemption of humanity through the cross and resurrection through relational, person-to-person witness, establishing worshipping communities of faith and discipleship, and reaching into communities in hands-on mission and service
3. To facilitate the social witness of our members on issues of common concern by providing resources, sharing best practices, and engaging in theological and ethical study, with the goal of transforming society to
 - Uphold the dignity of each human person as created in God's image
 - Address the needs and expand the opportunities of the poor
 - Protect human life and encourage its flourishing at all stages
 - Strengthen the marriage of a man and woman and the bonds between parents and children as the necessary building blocks of society
 - Defend the free exercise of religion in North America and around the world
4. To foster cooperation, mutual support, and resourcing of one another in the pursuit of this common cause through shared theological education, training, mission programs, and collaborative ministries