

## Associated Canadian Theological Schools Basis of Theological Agreement

The member institutions of the Associated Canadian Theological Schools Society (ACTS Seminaries) represent and serve diverse evangelical Protestant traditions and constituencies. Their doctrinal statements and theological confessions serve as the basis for their particular theological identity, and must be affirmed by their faculty and staff. To maximize cooperation within this consortial society, all members, associate members and affiliates, share a common commitment to the following theological affirmations that are expressed variously in the theological documents of all member institutions, which they understand to be consistent with historic Christian orthodoxy:

- The existence of one holy and loving God, who created all things, who exists eternally in a unity of three divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The lordship of the Son Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, whose deeds of power and words of truth brought near the Kingdom of God, whose vicarious death and bodily resurrection brought redemption to fallen humanity and a corrupted creation through the defeat of sin and death, who ascended to the Father and intercedes for his people, and whose personal and visible return will establish God's Kingdom in all its fullness and splendour.
- The presence and the power of God the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers, transforming and sanctifying them, guiding and equipping them for service, and uniting them in one body.
- The inspiration of the Christian Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, in which God has spoken by His Spirit through the words of human authors. The Scriptures provide a reliable witness to God's providential and salvific activity within the history of Israel and the early Church, and an articulation of God's plan for the ultimate destiny of humanity and all creation. The Bible is fully trustworthy and the highest authoritative guide for Christian believers in matters of worldview, faith, and conduct.
- The necessity of personal conversion and faith by which an individual appropriates the gift of salvation made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus, experiencing the new birth and adoption as a child of God, and embarking on a journey of spiritual growth and holiness as part of the covenant community of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The crucial role of the Church, which consists of all those who confess that Jesus is Lord and who follow him by faith, and exists as local bodies of believers and as a worldwide community of faith, gathering together for worship, prayer, teaching, baptism, the Lord's Supper, mutual edification and accountability, and participating in the ongoing disciple-making mission of God by proclamation of the gospel and acts of compassion.
- God's sovereignty over human history, demonstrated at the end of the Present Age when God will judge the living and the dead, providing hope that those who have been regenerated by God's Spirit will enjoy eternal life in the new heaven and the new earth, and warning that those who have persisted willfully in a state of enmity with God will experience eternal separation from God.