

7 gain more insights in the search for understanding than we do in certainty

Never be afraid to ask questions or question answers.

“ What the mind cannot accept, the heart can finally never adore.

John Shelby Spong ”

8 work together within and beyond the Church to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world

“ What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations.

Pope John Paul II ”

From what can be known about Jesus, he was receptive to the wisdom of others, and was compassionate and indiscriminately accepting. He challenged any unjust authority or system. He communed and enjoyed hospitality with people from all walks of life. Jesus exhorted his listeners to think for themselves about how to behave towards others, showing that love and compassion is the fullest expression of faith.





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PCN & Eight Points

Sharing
 Community
 Journey
 The Sacred

Peace
 Compassion




An introduction to our Eight Points

Our Eight Points offer a kind of framework to direct our thinking about progressive Christianity. We acknowledge that there are many other ways of understanding Christian faith but hope these Eight Points might be helpful.

They are meant to be inclusive, and not to impose uniformity. Points 2–8 are an attempt to spell out the broad consequences of being ‘guided by the life and teachings of Jesus’ (Point 1).

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PCN Britain offers these eight points, not as a creed, but as an expression of the Christian life.

We are people who...

1

seek God, however understood, guided by the life and teachings of Jesus

There are probably as many understandings of 'God' as there are people – with no right or wrong answers. God is a convenient term for the indefinable.

“ Definitions belong to the definers, not the defined

Toni Morrison

Experience of God, not belief in God, is the invitation of Christianity

Marcus Borg

I rather experience God as the source of life willing me to live fully, the source of love calling me to love wastefully and to borrow a phrase from the theologian, Paul Tillich, as the Ground of Being, calling me to be all that I can be

John Shelby Spong”

2

affirm that there are many ways to experience the Sacred and that we can draw on diverse sources of wisdom on our spiritual journeys

“ Jesus and the Buddha were teachers of a world-subverting wisdom that undermined and challenged conventional ways of seeing and being in their time and in every time. Their subversive wisdom was also an alternative wisdom: they taught a way or path of transformation

Marcus Borg”

Who can say where, when and how we may experience the Sacred?

3

recognise that following Jesus leads us to act with compassion and to confront evil

“ Compassion asks us to look into our hearts, discover what gives us pain, and then refuse to inflict that pain on anybody else

Karen Armstrong”

Jesus' dealings with people were characterised by compassion; his dealings with the authorities and systems that oppressed and mistreated people were uncompromising.

4

place hospitality at the centre of our communal and worshipping life and see the sharing of bread and wine as an expression of our common humanity

Jesus was noted for eating and drinking with all kinds of people, and enjoying their company. Building trust and friendship is facilitated when there is something tangible to share.

5

seek to build communities that accept all who wish to share companionship without insisting on conformity

Jesus associated especially with men and women that society and the religious leaders rejected. He did not make exceptions.

6

know that the way we behave towards others is the fullest expression of our faith

“ At any moment, half the world is light, and sunshine chases out the night. But light by day is not enough, for we must light the world with love

Gretta Vosper”