



**OFFICE OF THE PRIMATE
TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF THE PRIMATE
ON THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN**

The Traditional Anglican Church worldwide, as with other Continuing Anglican Churches outside of the Canterbury Communion, holds to the Principles of Faith set out in the *Affirmation of Saint Louis, 1977*. We hold and believe that the Holy Orders of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon are exclusive to men, affirming as we do the ancient tradition of the Church and the authority of Sacred Scripture. Though many in the secular world today see the ordination of women as a matter of human rights and equality between the sexes, it is in fact a matter of divine institution not human determination. No one has the 'right' to be ordained. The calling to the ordained ministry within the Church is from God who, in the person of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, instituted the sacred ministry among men alone -- though He could very well have done otherwise given our Lord's pronouncements and actions which in many cases ran counter to the prevailing understanding and teachings of the then Jewish authorities and larger culture. The ordained minister is an 'icon of Christ' -- *persona Christi* or *alter Christus* -- particularly in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. To set aside the teachings of Christ and the sacred tradition of the Church Universal in any unilateral way is contrary to the teachings of Christ, the ancient discipline of the Church, and the means by which doctrines of the Church are determined. The Traditional Anglican Church continues in the beliefs and discipline of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We seek to conform to the model of Church left to us by our Lord; and as He did not grant authority to His Church to confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders on women, it is beyond our moral and canonical right to do so. We hold that no Church or body of bishops has the authority to alter the teachings of Christ and His Church in matters of faith and morals, including the ordination of women.

The Most Reverend Shane B. Janzen
Primate, Traditional Anglican Church