

Honey Creek Statement

May 1993

The Council of Associated Parishes, meeting at Honey Creek in the Diocese of Georgia, wrestled with the following issues: environment, the daily office, celebration of a new ministry, non-verbal culture and print culture of the church.

Though these issues might first seem unrelated, we find they all are rooted in the church's renewed understanding of the centrality of holy baptism.

This understanding leads to a fresh awareness of the nature of the church as the priesthood of all the baptized, whose baptismal vocation is to offer to God through Christ the whole of creation.

We understand that this vocation calls us to treasure the environment and to strive for justice.

We further understand that this restored meaning of baptism challenges the practice of ranking one form of ministry over another and gives to the whole church a royal priesthood shared by each Christian.

Therefore, we are led to reassess in our rites of ordination and celebrations of new ministry those elements that are contradictory to this renewed appreciation of baptism.

Many may mourn the loss of old certainties and familiar liturgical forms. Yet even in bereavement, we affirm the power of the Holy Spirit, moving over and through chaos, to transform our lives and way of being the church.

Waverly, Georgia