Phoenix Affirmations:
A New Vision for the Future of Christianity

Discussions will be held on Thursday evenings, 7-8 PM at St. James West.

Frances Moore will serve as discussion leader.

It is likely that not everyone will always agree with the author, and that is fine. It is also likely that participants will find that the affirmations will articulate a faith that is very interconnected, joyful and livable.

Overview

The Phoenix Affirmations were recently developed by a group of Clergy in Phoenix. They felt the public face of Christianity that now pervades our society does not reflect the way most Christians view and practice their religion. The Affirmations express a more traditional, inclusive, and expansive role for Christianity.

The Affirmations say that, as Jesus teaches us, our Christian love should be expressed in three ways: by loving God, neighbor, and self.

Love of God
Oct 22
Oct 29
Nov 5
Nov 12
Love of Neighbor
Nov 19
Dec 3
Dec 10
Dec 17
Love of Self
Jan 7
Jan 14
Jan 21
Jan 28

THE PHOENIX AFFIRMATIONS

by Eric Elnes

1. Walking fully in the Path of Jesus without denying the legitimacy of other paths that God may provide for humanity
2. Listening for God's Word, which comes through daily prayer and meditation, studying the ancient testimonies which we call Scripture, and attending to God's present activity in the world
3. Celebrating the God whose Spirit pervades and whose glory is reflected in all of God's Creation, including the earth and its ecosystems, the sacred and secular, the Christian and non-Christian, the human and non-human
4. Expressing our love in worship that is as sincere, vibrant, and artful as it is scriptural
5. Engaging people authentically, as Jesus did, treating all as creations made in God's very image, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality, or economic class
6. Standing, as Jesus does, with the outcast and oppressed, the denigrated and afflicted, seeking peace and justice with or without the support of others
7. Preserving religious freedom and the church's ability to speak prophetically to government by resisting the commingling of church and state
8. Walking humbly with God, acknowledging our own shortcomings while honestly seeking to understand and call forth the best in others, including those who consider us their enemies
9. Basing our lives on the faith that in Christ all things are made new and that we, and all people, are loved beyond our wildest imagination—for eternity
10. Claiming the sacredness of both our minds and our hearts, and recognizing that faith and science, doubt and belief serve the pursuit of truth
11. Caring for our bodies and insisting on taking time to enjoy the benefits of prayer, reflection, worship, and recreation in addition to work
12. Acting on the faith that we are born with a meaning and purpose, a vocation and ministry that serve to strengthen and extend God's realm of love.