

Part of a frieze, found in Capernaum,  
depicting the tree of life



Faith in Life –  
A Life of Faith  
Portrait of  
a Living Denomination

New Apostolic Church





# What is the purpose of this brochure?

You have come into contact with the New Apostolic Church. Perhaps you have neighbours or co-workers, friends or relatives who are members of the New Apostolic Church. Perhaps you have noticed one of our church buildings, or you heard a report in the media. Or perhaps you have picked up this brochure out of professional interest.

Whatever the reason, if you want to know more about what the New Apostolic Church believes, you will find our fundamental teachings and beliefs on the following pages.



New Apostolic –  
a definitive  
profession to  
the gospel of  
Jesus Christ



To be New Apostolic means to be a dedicated Christian.

To New Apostolic Christians the gospel is more than a set of traditional beliefs: It is both a precious gift of God and the specific expectations God has of mankind. Just like the railing on a ship, Jesus' doctrine is both a support and a boundary. It sets limits to provide protection.

The system of values established in the Ten Commandments and the gospel is summed up by Jesus Christ in one pivotal commandment: to love God and our fellow-man. This is an expression of God's will which gives clear direction in our fast-paced time with all its changing values.

The doctrine of the New Apostolic Church is based upon the Holy Scriptures. In the divine services, generally accepted translations of the Bible are used. In English-speaking countries, the New King James Version is used.



## The doctrine – an overview



The fundamental tenets of our doctrine are contained in ten articles of faith, the creed of the New Apostolic Church.

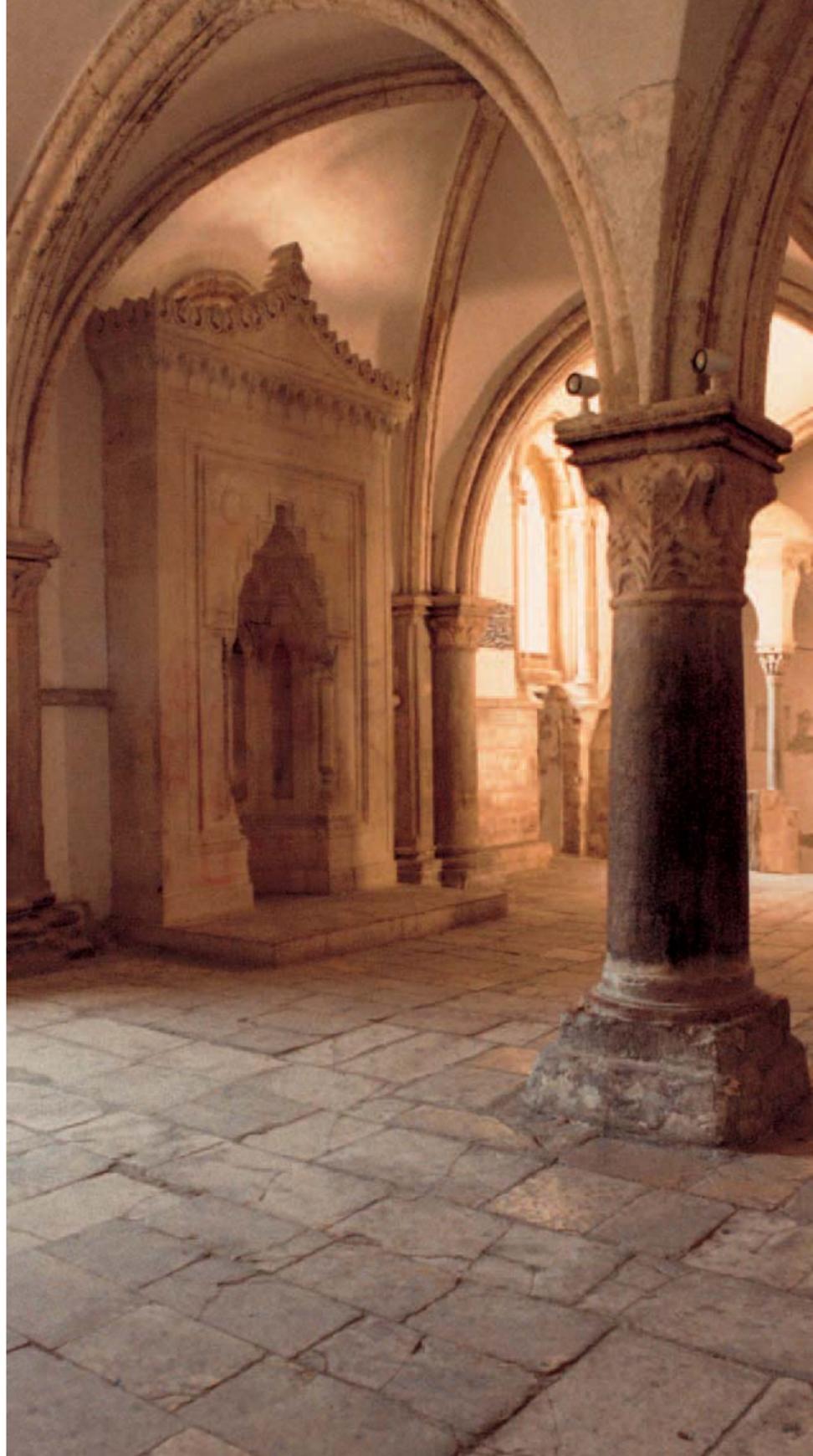
In accordance with early Christian creeds, the first three articles of our faith deal with:

- God the Father, the almighty Creator of heaven and earth,
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour and Redeemer, and all that the Bible tells us of him,
- The Holy Ghost as the power sent by God which is active in the church, forgiveness of sins, resurrection of the dead and eternal life.

The other articles profess the belief that Jesus sent his Apostles and still sends them today to:

- proclaim the gospel,
- forgive sins,
- ordain ministers,
- dispense the three sacraments (Holy Baptism, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion)

In addition, the articles include our belief in Jesus' imminent return, and the relationship of New Apostolic Christians to the state.



# Similarities – differences

“What makes your church different from all the others?”

New Apostolic Christians are often asked this question. And there is no single, standard answer. Differences from one denomination may be similarities with another. Thus the following list contains some of our beliefs that are not necessarily shared by all Christians nowadays.

New Apostolic Christians believe:

- in a triune God who wishes to help all mankind;
- that the New Apostolic Church is Jesus Christ's work of redemption in our time;
- that Jesus Christ reigns in his church and gave it the Apostle ministry, which is necessary to prepare believing souls for Christ's return;
- that Jesus Christ established three sacraments for his church, which are also dispensed upon children: Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and Holy Sealing;
- that Holy Sealing, the bestowal of the Holy Spirit, can only be done by Apostles of Jesus;

that Jesus Christ will soon return—and for that reason this event is purposely included in our life of faith; that when Jesus Christ returns it will not be for the Last Judgement, but to take his own to himself; that before the Last Judgement there will be a kingdom of peace ruled by the Son of God where everyone who has ever lived will be offered grace and redemption;



that the souls of people who died unredeemed can receive salvation in Christ today.





## New Apostolic – faith in life, a life of faith

The Gospel gives us hope  
for the future that goes  
beyond the grave.

Jesus' doctrine as proclaimed in the New Apostolic Church shows what is made possible by grace through Christ's sacrifice: redemption from sin and reconciliation with God.

This doctrine offers counsel and direction, but the responsibility for any decisions rests squarely upon the individual. In sickness and other sorrows, faith gives a person help and strength to accept their situation, to recognize that God has permitted it and thus life is worth living.

Faith in God leads to a conscious desire to live according to God's will. Questions about the origin of man and his ultimate goal, and the meaning and content of life, can only be answered by faith in God.

New Apostolic Christians recognize and experience God as the gracious and kind heavenly Father. They cultivate their relationship with the Almighty through intensive and trusting prayer, individually as well as in the family and in the congregation.



## Christ's Church – fellowship for all

God invites all mankind to believe: old and young, rich and poor, sick and healthy.

Fellowship among those who believe is an important component of our doctrine. Many New Apostolic Christians attend divine services when they are on holiday or business trips, and feel at home in the various congregations.





There are many ways in which each person can contribute to the life of the congregation.

Many members are active Christians who volunteer to participate in church activities in their spare time. This includes singing in choirs and playing instruments in the divine services, teaching the children in Sunday School, religious instruction and confirmation classes, supporting the youth, and caring for our elderly, handicapped and sick members.



Pastoral care is very varied. The divine services are the focal point of all church work. All pastoral care is performed on a voluntary basis without payment.

New Apostolic Christians address each other as “Brother” and “Sister”, which is an expression of the inner connection they feel with one another.

All activities in the New Apostolic Church are done voluntarily, with inner conviction—and all to the glory of God!



## New Apostolic in everyday life

Life as a Christian is not limited to the congregation or fellowship with those who share our faith.



After all, the greatest portion of our everyday lives takes place outside of the church setting, in school or college, at home or at work, in hospitals or retirement centres. New Apostolic Christians are also firmly rooted in life with all its ups and downs, they are neighbours, co-workers, spouses.



No matter if one is working or unemployed, single, married, divorced or widowed, no matter what life brings, in all situations it helps to have a faith that:

- promotes trust in God despite problems and sickness;
- recognizes well-being and wealth as cause for gratitude;
- gives meaning and content to life, and
- gives the assurance

that the existence on earth is followed by eternal life.

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