

## EEAM Declaration of Faith

### Preamble

We, the Protestant Church in Morocco (EEAM/Eglise Evangélique au Maroc), first established in 1907 in this Muslim context in the northwest corner of Africa, at the crossroads between North and South, East and West, desire first of all to express our gratitude to our pioneering founders who, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, built this church on the sure foundation of scripture, who grounded it in the strong name of Jesus Christ, and who constructed it according to the principles of faith and of freedom. “So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”<sup>1</sup>

As heirs to the great movements of Protestantism, the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the Revival of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, we express the ancient Christian faith confessed in the Apostles’ Creed and reaffirmed over the centuries in diverse ways, particular to time, place, and circumstance. Even as we confess our faith for our time, place, and circumstance, we remember with gratitude all our forebears in faith and affirm with them, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”<sup>2</sup>

Members of the CEEFE (the Community of Francophone Protestant Churches outside of France), the CEVAA (Community of Churches in Mission), the WCRC (the World Communion of Reformed Churches), the CETA (All African Conference of Churches), we are in solidarity with other sister churches and understand ourselves to be a visible piece of the universal Church whose boundaries cannot be delineated. Christ is our peace: In his flesh, he has made that which was divided one, and has destroyed the walls of separation.<sup>3</sup>

### Statement of Faith

We are a family, recreated and reunited: this is the work of God the Father in us.

Though most of us are far from our homelands, God brings us together as one body.<sup>4</sup> This is what establishes us. This is what makes us strong.

We are no longer aliens or sojourners; we are part of the family of God,<sup>5</sup>

Seeking to maintain unity through the Holy Spirit. For us, there is one God, the Father of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.<sup>6</sup>

We are united in faith by the same Father: this is what we believe.

We are a family, raised up and restored: this is the work of the Son in us.

When we are weary, wounded, or despairing, he hears our cries.

On the cross, revealing his love to be stronger than death<sup>7</sup>,

he draws near to us and offers us comfort<sup>8</sup>:

My grace is sufficient, my strength is made perfect in weakness.<sup>9</sup>

This is what lifts us up. This is what makes us strong.

The Resurrected Christ then raises us to action:

In solidarity with those in need, we seek to offer hospitality and aid to those who suffer. We rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep,

and seek to live in peace with all.<sup>10</sup>

The Son sends us forth in service of love: this is what we believe.

We are a family, renewed and made joyous: this is the work of the Spirit in us.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 3:7

<sup>2</sup> Hebrews 13:8

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 2:14

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 2:19

<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 4:3-6

<sup>7</sup> Romans 8:38

<sup>8</sup> Luke 24:15

<sup>9</sup> 2 Corinthians 12:9

<sup>10</sup> Romans 12:13-18

Tempted to live behind walls of separation due to age, doctrine, culture, or wealth, we are encouraged by the Spirit of Christ: That my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete, love one another as I have loved you.<sup>11</sup>

This is what inspires us. This is what makes us strong.

We choose to welcome one another, unconditionally, as Christ has welcomed us, to the glory of God.<sup>12</sup> In the fresh wind of the Spirit, we sing and celebrate: how sweet it is for brothers and sisters to live together in harmony.<sup>13</sup> The joy of the Lord is our strength!<sup>14</sup>

Joy is ours in the fellowship born of the Holy Spirit: this is what we believe.

We are a family, built up and strengthened: this is the prophetic vision that guides us.

For us the words of the prophet Hosea remain true:

For lack of knowledge, my people perish.<sup>15</sup>

We refuse to be children, tossed about by every wind of doctrine.

Instead, confessing the truth in love, we grow in Christ who is the head,<sup>16</sup> in the reconciliation of heart and mind.

This is what builds us up. This is what makes us strong.

Through preaching, prayer, Bible study, Communion and Baptism, each person is equipped to live out his or her vocation.

Whoever remains united to Christ bears much fruit.<sup>17</sup>

We are called to grow as new creation: this is what we believe.

We are a family sent forth and blessed: this is the prophetic call we have received.

How shall they believe in the Lord of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear if he is not proclaimed?<sup>18</sup> I am not ashamed of the gospel;

it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith.<sup>19</sup>

The truth sets us free<sup>20</sup>: this is what makes us strong.

With Abraham, we desire to be blessing for others. Caring for all persons and respectful of all believers, we dare to witness to our Christian faith. But we have this treasure in clay jars, a sign that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.<sup>21</sup> We are salt of the earth and light of the world.

We are sent to shine forth the gospel. This is what we believe.

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<sup>11</sup> John 15:11-12

<sup>12</sup> Romans 15:7

<sup>13</sup> Psalm 133:4

<sup>14</sup> Nehemiah 8:10

<sup>15</sup> Hosea 4:6

<sup>16</sup> Ephesians 4:14-15

<sup>17</sup> John 15:5

<sup>18</sup> Romans 10:14

<sup>19</sup> Romans 1:16

<sup>20</sup> John 8:32

<sup>21</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:7