



Statement of Agreement
Of
The Government of Belize (GOB) and the Church Communities of Belize

We, the undersigned, affirm our commitment to the Constitutional principles on which Belize was founded, including "the supremacy of God," the "dignity of the human person and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed by their Creator." This means, in practice, that Belize is not, and never will be, either a theocracy or an atheist humanist society; rather, by recognizing the Supremacy of God, the nation of Belize acknowledges the limits of government and the God-given, inalienable rights of all persons. This foundation provides the basis for a just and ordered society where all are free and equal.

GOB and the Church Communities of our nation work together in a unique partnership deeply woven into Belizean history and culture. This partnership strengthens the political process, benefits society, and provides tangible witness of our mutual fidelity to the Belize Constitution and the wise vision of Belize's founding father.

Through this Statement of Agreement, we celebrate this unique partnership between the Government of Belize and the Church Communities of Belize.

1. We agree that each person is endowed with a common human dignity, a shared human nature, and equal human rights endowed by the Creator.

2. We agree that neither the Government nor civil society can bestow human dignity, human nature, or human rights on any person, as these gifts come from our Creator rather than any human institution. The Government's role is to recognize, respect, and protect human dignity, human nature, and human rights, as given by our Creator.

3. We agree that partnership between the Church and State in Belize has a unique place in Belize history and culture and identity.
4. We agree that the Minister of Religious Affairs represents the Government and is not a religious leader or representative of the Church Communities of Belize.
5. We agree that, except for the Senator representing the Church in public service, the Church leaders of Belize do not represent GOB and should not be perceived as government ministers.
6. We agree that the Church is composed of members who are citizens of Belize, consequently, the Church has a right and responsibility to speak publicly on matters affecting state governance, civil or legal rights, and the social or cultural impact of government initiatives which affect the just ordering of society and the dignity of Belizeans, individually or collectively.
7. We agree that the Minister of Religious Affairs has the unique responsibility to preserve and facilitate the unique partnership, implicit in the Belize Constitution, between GOB and the Church, always ensuring freedom of conscience and freedom of religion, as bestowed by the Creator, and recognized by the Belizean Constitution.
8. We agree that the interdependence within Belize's culture of religion, and all aspects of human life respect, and do not negate personal, social, and scientific independence.
9. We believe that civil society and the Church operate with autonomy. Civil autonomy respects the truth that created things enjoy their own laws, from the hand of the Creator, oriented towards stability, truth, and goodness. The right use of things, in harmony with the wisdom of the Creator, must be deciphered gradually, and regulated by responsible persons.

10. We agree that because faith and reason have the same source – God – methodical investigation within every branch of learning never truly conflicts with faith, so long as those investigations are carried out in a genuinely scientific manner, always in accord with moral norms.



Hon. Henry Charles Usher
Minister of the Public Service
Constitutional and Political Reform
And Religious Affairs

Dec. 20, 2013



Sen. Bishop A Moses Benguche
Council of Churches