

## Declaration of Freedom

*When, in the course of my life, it becomes necessary for me to dissolve the bonds that have bound me to people and to things other than God, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle me, a decent respect for the opinions of mankind requires that I should declare the causes that have impelled me to this separation.*

*I hold these truths to be self-evident, that I was created equal to all other men and women, and I have been endowed by my Creator with certain inalienable rights. Among those rights are my right to be different, to stand for my convictions, to bow my head before none other than God, and to be Christ's faithful disciple till my life's end.*

*Others have felt they should stand between me and the God who created me.*

*Others have tried to tell me what only God can tell me.*

*Others have created systems which bind me to the rules and regulations of men.*

*Others have tried to make me feel guilty.*

*Others have threatened me with their rejection. They have told me they would withhold their love from me if I was not like them.*

*Others have manipulated me and have made a mockery of God's special creation in me, and have thereby prevented me from acting freely and boldly in Christ's name.*

*I, therefore, a representative of the King, appealing to Him, do in His name and by His authority, declare that I am free and independent of all except Him and those to whom He has bound me. To this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, I do pledge my life, my fortune, and my sacred honor.*