


## Anglican Polity and Politics


Class 10 of an Inquirer's Class about Christianity and The Episcopal Church

Revised 25 April 2007




### The Anglican Communion- 1

- The Anglican priesthood is a pastoral one: neither a sacerdotal caste serving to restrict the spiritual privileges of the laity or the people of God, nor a didactic, scribal, rabbinic, judicatory order that lays down the law as to belief and practice and is entrusted with the duty of policing its enforcement.




### The Anglican Communion- 2

- It is a priesthood that involves all the gentleness, the attention to human needs, the listening ear, and the solidarity in our human condition of the true pastor.




### The Anglican Communion- 3

- Anglicanism's love of the truth is fearless.
- The Anglican ideal focuses on a particular view of the role of authority in the sphere of religion.
- It appeals to Scripture, tradition and reason, but does so in the acknowledged context of our modern pluralistic situation.



### The Vocation of Anglicanism - 1

- Sometimes we hear that the Anglicans lack identity, that they don't stand for anything.
- One can therefore argue that the church lacks integrity.
- But, identity itself does not guarantee integrity.
- Pursue integrity, and identity will take care of itself.
- Anglicanism exists. Its political, social and cultural parameters, with all their compromises, are given.



### The Vocation of Anglicanism - 2

- The vocation of Anglicanism must be to proclaim the gospel of Christ
- The Anglican Church is vindicated by its place in history, with a strikingly balanced witness to gospel and Church and sound learning
- Its credentials are its incompleteness, with the tension and travail in its soul.
- It is clumsy and untidy, it baffles neatness and logic. For it is sent not to commend itself as 'the best type of Christianity', but by its very brokenness to point to the universal Church.

## What is Anglicanism?

- Anglicanism aspires to be a catholic faith with its roots in Christian antiquity and in continuity of faith and order, worship and witness, from the apostles.
- Jewel insisted that the Church of England had departed, not from the Catholic Church, but from the errors of Rome.
- Whitgift pointed out that the Church of England was 'reformed' not 'transformed' because 'we retain whatsoever we find to be good, refuse or reform that which is evil'.

## Anglicanism is a Reformed Church - 1

- The essentially reformed character of Anglicanism is evidenced above all in the place that it gives to Holy Scripture as the norm by which all other sources of Christian truth are evaluated.

## Anglicanism is a Reformed Church - 1

It was by the touchstone of Scripture that the Reformers rejected aspects of medieval Catholicism: the universal jurisdiction of the pope, the sacerdotal office of the priesthood, the propitiatory sacrifice of the mass, withholding the cup from the laity, transubstantiation which overthrows the nature of a sacrament ...

## Anglicanism is a Reformed Church - 2

... the liturgy in a foreign tongue, compulsory clerical celibacy, mandatory sacramental confession, purgatory and the treasury of merits, the cultus and mediatory role of the saints, the downgrading of the lay vocation compared with the religious life.

## An Overview of the Anglican Communion - 1

- The Anglican Communion consists of 70 million baptized members worldwide in 38 self-governing Churches, 500 dioceses, 30,000 parishes, 64,000 congregations in 164 countries.
- See <http://www.saintmartins-stockport.org.uk/stmnumbers2.html>

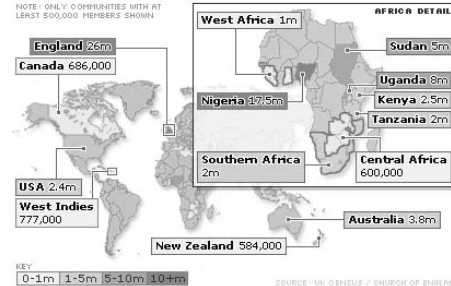
## An Overview of the Anglican Communion - 2

- There is no central administration of the Anglican Church. There is no Pope or President or chief executive. The Anglican Church is instead unified by tradition, belief, and agreement, or as it has been stated recently, "by common bonds of affection."

## Being in Communion or Not in Communion

- An Anglican church is said to be "in communion", or "in communion with the See of Canterbury" or "not in communion."
- Generally, Anglican churches that are not in communion with the See of Canterbury have withdrawn because of doctrinal differences.
- In recent years those differences have included the ordination of women priests and the attitude of the church towards sexuality.

## Map of the Anglican Communion



## What Holds the Communion Together?

- The Anglican Communion is held together by a common loyalty and a degree of affection of worship. The adage of "we are what we pray" possibly really takes on meaning in terms of church polity here. All churches that are in full communion with the See of Canterbury enjoy full recognition of ordained ministers, share a view of apostolicity, etc.). The following four items help the Communion live and work together:

## 1. Lambeth Conferences

- The Bishops of the world meet every 10 years. Since 1867 the Bishops of the world have met at Lambeth Palace at the See of Canterbury.
- In 1867 there were 76 bishops at Lambeth, and now there are over 700 in attendance.
- Lambeth Conferences have no legislative role; Lambeth is simply a consultative body.

## 2. The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)

- The ACC is a body of elected Laity and Bishops that serve as an advisory panel that sustains the life of the Anglican Communion between Lambeth conferences.
- The ACC meets every two years, and the first meeting was in 1968.
- The most recent meeting of the ACC was different because of the problem generated by the election and consecration of an openly gay bishop in the U.S.

## 3. Primates Meeting

- The Primates, that is the Bishops who head each of the world wide provinces meet yearly. These meetings began in 1979.

### 4. The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (A)

- The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as "containing all things necessary to salvation," and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith.
- The Apostles' Creed, as the Baptismal Symbol; and the Nicene Creed, as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith.

### 4. The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (B)

- The two Sacraments ordained by Christ himself--Baptism and the Supper of the Lord--ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of Institution, and of the elements ordained by him.
- The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the Unity of his Church.

### Organization of the Episcopal Church - 1

- The Episcopal Church is made up of between two and three million worshipers in about 7600 congregations across the United States and a few related dioceses outside the US.

### Organization of the Episcopal Church - 2

The map shows the geographical divisions of the Episcopal Church into nine provinces, each with its own bishop and cathedral. Province I is in the Northeast, II in the Mid-Atlantic, III in the Southeast, IV in the South, V in the Great Lakes region, VI in the central US, VII in the Southwest, VIII in the Northwest, and IX in Alaska.

### The Diocese of Mississippi

The map displays the geographical layout of the Diocese of Mississippi, with numerous parishes marked by crosses and labeled with their names. A legend at the bottom identifies the symbols used for different types of parishes, such as those in the Central, Coast, Gulf, and Southern Conventions.

### Alphabetical List of Mississippi Churches - 1

<b>Advent:</b> Sumner	<b>Grace:</b> Carrollton	<b>St. Francis of Assisi:</b> Philadelphia	<b>St. Paul's:</b> Corinth
<b>All Saints:</b> Grenada	<b>Grace:</b> Rosedale	<b>St. George's:</b> Clarksdale	<b>St. Paul's:</b> Hollandale
<b>All Saints:</b> Inverness	<b>Holy Cross:</b> Olive Branch	<b>St. George's-by-the-Lake:</b> Ita Bena	<b>St. Paul's:</b> Meridian
<b>All Saints:</b> Jackson	<b>Holy Innocents:</b> Como	<b>St. James':</b> Greenville	<b>St. Paul's:</b> Picayune
<b>All Saints:</b> Tupelo	<b>Holy Trinity:</b> Crystal Springs	<b>St. James':</b> Jackson	<b>St. Paul's:</b> Woodville
<b>All Saints School:</b> Vicksburg	<b>Holy Trinity:</b> Vicksburg	<b>St. James':</b> Port Gibson	<b>St. Peter's:</b> Oxford
<b>Ascension:</b> Brooksville	<b>Incarnation:</b> West Point	<b>St. John's:</b> Abbeville	<b>St. Peter's-by-the-Lake:</b> Brandon
<b>Ascension:</b> Hattiesburg	<b>Mediator:</b> Meridian	<b>St. John's:</b> Laurel	<b>St. Peter's-by-the-Sea:</b> Gulfport
<b>Calvary:</b> Cleveland	<b>Mediator/Redeemer:</b> Magnolia/McComb	<b>St. John's:</b> Leland	<b>St. Philip's:</b> Jackson
<b>Calvary:</b> Michigan City	<b>Nativity:</b> Greenwood	<b>St. John's:</b> Ocean Springs	<b>St. Pierre's:</b> Gautier
<b>Canterbury at Southern Miss:</b> Univ. of Southern Miss.	<b>Nativity:</b> Macon	<b>St. John's:</b> Pascagoula	<b>St. Stephen's:</b> Batesville

### Alphabetical List of Mississippi Churches - 2

<u>Canterbury Fellowship at Miss. State</u> : MS State Univ.	<u>Nativity</u> : Water Valley	<u>St. Luke's</u> : Brandon	<u>St. Stephen's</u> : Columbia
<u>Chapel of the Cross</u> : Madison	<u>Our Savior</u> : Iuka	<u>St. Mark's</u> : Gulfport	<u>St. Stephen's</u> : Indianola
<u>Chapel of the Cross</u> : Rolling Fork	<u>Redeemer</u> : Bitouxi	<u>St. Mark's</u> : Jackson	<u>St. Thomas</u> : Belzoni
<u>Christ</u> : Bay St. Louis	<u>Redeemer</u> : Brookhaven	<u>St. Mark's</u> : Raymond	<u>St. Thomas</u> : Diamondhead
<u>Christ</u> : Church Hill	<u>Redeemer</u> : Greenville	<u>St. Mary's</u> : Bolton	<u>St. Timothy's</u> : Southaven
<u>Christ</u> : Holly Springs	<u>Resurrection</u> : Starkville	<u>St. Mary's</u> : Enterprise	<u>State Penitentiary Chaplaincy</u> : Parchman
<u>Christ</u> : Vicksburg	<u>St. Alban's</u> : Bovina	<u>St. Mary's</u> : Lexington	<u>Trinity</u> : Hattiesburg
<u>Creator</u> : Clinton	<u>St. Alexis</u> : Jackson	<u>St. Mary's</u> : Vicksburg	<u>Trinity</u> : Natchez
<u>Epiphany</u> : Tunica	<u>St. Andrew's</u> : Jackson	<u>St. Matthew's</u> : Forest	<u>Trinity</u> : Newton
<u>Episcopal Church at Ole Miss</u> : University of Mississippi	<u>St. Bernard's at Grace</u> : Okolona	<u>St. Matthew's</u> : Kosciusko	<u>Trinity</u> : Pass Christian
<u>Good Shepherd</u> : Columbus	<u>St. Christopher's</u> : Jackson	<u>St. Michael's Chapel</u> : St. Francis Academy, Piquette	<u>Trinity</u> : Yazoo City
<u>Good Shepherd</u> : Terry	<u>St. Columby's</u> : Ridgeland	<u>St. Patrick's</u> : Long Beach	
<u>Grace</u> : Canton	<u>St. Elizabeth's</u> : Collins	<u>St. Paul's</u> : Columbus	

## Web Resources for You to Use

- Check out the class web page for a variety of web resources for the national church and our diocese.