

ANGLICANISM... A Brief Note



The Anglican Church is a branch of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. It is the third largest Christian community in the world, after the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Anglicanism is a particular Christian tradition born out of the Reformation (16th century).

The word Anglican means “of England.” As the British Empire grew, British Christians took their faith around the world and churches were established on every continent. The Compass Rose symbolizes the spread of the Anglican Communion.

Over time, separate, autonomous “provinces”, constituting the Anglican Communion, were established around the world. Today, this communion of churches now consists of 41 self-governing provinces and five extra-provincial areas in 165 countries, with about 85 million members. In many places, particularly throughout the Global South, the churches of the Anglican Communion are known for their vibrant faith in God and transformational presence within their communities.

The churches of the Anglican Communion are “linked by affection and common loyalty” and are in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury. He is the Spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion but has no jurisdiction over the provinces of the Communion. This is also true for King Charles who is the "Supreme Governor of The Church of England" but not the head of the Anglican Church of Canada. That position is held by The Primate of the National Church. We pray for the King because he is Head of State, not because he has any relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada except that he is a fellow Anglican.

Anglicans value our place in a global communion of churches, our rich history of faith and practice, and a deep commitment to the authority of Scripture and the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), is the most representative body of gathered Anglicans among the Instruments of Communion. It includes members of the laity, archbishops, bishops, priests, and deacons, and serves to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion.

Through its work, information between the provinces and churches is exchanged and common action is coordinated. It advises on the organization and structures of the Communion and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters.

Guided by the Baptismal Covenant entered upon by every member of the Church at baptism, the following five "Marks of Mission" are a framework used to describe and encourage ministry throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion to:

- Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- Teach, baptize, and nurture new believers.
- Respond to human need by loving service.
- Seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
- Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.