

## The Anglican Expression of Christianity

What are some notable marks of the Anglican “room”?

- We tend to emphasize pastoral care. How can we care for one another, encourage one another, and help one another become deeper in Christ?
- We use a common liturgy (*Book of Common Prayer* and its successors)
- We have an Episcopal (bishop’s) leadership
- We have historical ties to the Church in England, but the “average” Anglican worldwide is a black woman in her 40s, living on a subsistence diet. The largest Anglican province is Nigeria.
- We identify as being within the reforms of the Church which took place in the 1500’s, but have maintained what we hope is the best of traditions throughout the ages.
- We believe that the writers of the Bible were inspired by God, and their overall message is a message for all people. We believe that the Bible contains “all things necessary for salvation.” That is, the core of what all Christians need to believe can be found in the Bible. (We can choose to believe other teachings which are not explicitly in the Bible, as long as they are not *contrary* to the biblical witness.)
- While most of our focus is on life within the parish, we belong to a global communion. Parishes are within dioceses, which are within provinces. St. Brice’s is within the Diocese of Algoma, which is within the ecclesiastical province of Ontario, within the Anglican Church of Canada.  
While there are many gifts in belonging to a worldwide communion, there have also been challenges to our unity. (The most recent challenges to our unity have been the Prayer Book Revision, the Ordination of Women, and Gay and Lesbian Relationships.) There are very different perspectives between, say, rural west Africa and urban U.S.A.
- While there are strong sisterly relationships among all the Anglican provinces, each Anglican province understands itself to be independent.
- Relationships between Indigenous and Non-indigenous Anglicans have become an important focus, especially in Canada, the U.S.A, Australia, New Zealand, Polynesia, South Africa and parts of west Africa. The recent global “Lambeth Calls” include a request for Anglicans to examine these cultural relationships.
- The “Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral” identified the *minimum* Anglicans begin with, in our conversations with other denominations:
  - The Nicene and Apostles Creed

- Scripture contains all things needed for salvation
- There are 2 sacraments specifically commanded by Jesus: Baptism and Holy Communion
- Episcopal (Bishop’s) leadership, while being sensitive to local contexts.
- There are 4 key instruments of unity in the Anglican Communion:
  - The Archbishop of Canterbury (England)
  - The Primates (senior archbishops of their provinces)
  - Lambeth Conferences (once-a-decade gatherings of bishops)
  - The Anglican Consultative Council (lay people, priests and bishops from all the provinces).

### 5 Anglican Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Bonus Question! -- What about King Henry VIII?

Henry VIII was the King of England (d. 1547). It was during Henry VIII’s reign that England broke its relationship with the Pope, the leader of the Western Church, who was based in Rome.

It’s true that Henry VIII wanted a divorce (in hopes of producing a male heir), which the Pope would not grant. However, there is a lot more to Anglican identity than a king wanting a divorce:

- Like all other Christians, Anglicans understand that the Church began with the apostles, and has become like a single tree with many branches;
- There were emerging national identities throughout Europe in this period;
- The western Church was very much in need of significant reform, yet was unable to achieve these reforms;
- However challenging it often is, we seek to restore unity to the Church.