

BASIC HISTORICAL TENETS OF THE ANGLICAN FAITH HELPFUL FOR LAY MINISTERS TO KNOW

SIMPLE QUESTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP IN SMALL GROUPS...

- 1. What about Anglican worship and liturgy do you appreciate most?**
- 2. What about Anglican worship and liturgy do you struggle with the most?**

[Dear Lay Ministers: please note that these notes are just a skeleton – the actual Presentation was filled out during the lecture...]

3. More we talk to Lay Ministers [older and trainee ones] more apparent it becomes that many Lay Ministers need to grow in:

- **APPRECIATION** of Anglican style of Worship...
- **UNDERSTANDING** our unique historical roots...
- **UNDERSTANDING** the centrality of the Holy Eucharist...
- **AFFIRMING** the place and role of the Sacraments...
- **RECOGNIZING** the fluidity of Anglican Worship and Liturgy...
- **UNDERSTANDING** the Rubrics as Guidelines to **ORDER, UNIFORMITY** and helping God in worship be **STABLE, RECOGNIZABLE** Presence.

4. WHAT CONSTITUTES ANGLICANISM?

Anglican Church / Anglican Communion [distinct from CESA –Church of England in South Africa]

- Centuries-old church / stood the test of time!
- Gone through many times of transformation, renewal, reformation, refinement, searching...
- Has a definite sense of **COLONIAL** and **AFRICAN ROOTEDNESS**...
- Part of the **ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC** and **APOSTOLIC CHURCH**...
- Church governed by Bishops, Provincial and Diocesan Synods / Conventions...
- We're a church in communion with the Canterbury...
- Each Province is **AUTONOMOUS**, yet respectfully connected to the rest of the Anglican Communion.
- We are guided by **CANONS / CONSTITUTION / RUBRICS** – we are not Congregational [explain]...
- **SCRIPTURE, TRADITION and REASON:**
Richard Hooker 16th cent. Articulated the reading and interpreting the Bible.

What the Bible says must always speak to us in our time and place.

God has given us innate intelligence and our own experience which we refer to as 'Reason' – we must sort out our own understanding of Scripture as it relates to our lives.

5. WHAT ARE THE BELIEFS / BASIC TENETS THAT UNITE ANGLICANS?

▪ **THE LAMBETH QUADRILATERAL:**

'quad' meaning 4 – here follows the four basics of the Quadrilateral...

Chicago 1888 following the Civil Wars – American Bishops

attempt at uniformity / helping people move away from division and divisiveness and find God as the centre of community and worship life...

Lambeth Quadrilateral was adopted by US Bishops of the wider Anglican Communion...

i. **HOLY SCRIPTURES [Old & New Testament and role of Apocrypha]**

▪ **Scriptures “containing all things necessary for salvation!”** [A most, most important statement!!!]

▪ **Apocrypha: [from the Greek ‘hidden things’]**

Biblical books received by the early church as part of the Greek version of the OT, but not included in the Hebrew Bible.

Their position in Christian usage has been ambiguous.

St. Jerome first used the term. Synod of Jerusalem 1672, Council of Trent 1548 – different understandings of the Apocryphal books.

39 Articles contend that Apocryphal book should be read for **“example of life and instruction of manners”** but **NOT used to establish and formulate doctrine.**

ii. **THE CREEDS [Apostles (Jerusalem Creed) Athanasius and Nicene]**

All sufficient Statement of Faith / Statements of Belief

Mention the Arian Controversy

iii. **THE SACRAMENTS [Baptism and Holy Communion]**

▪ Two Sacraments clearly ordained by Christ...

- Other Sacraments discerned via great Church Councils
- 7 Sacraments...
- Sacraments are deeply Christo-centric and Bible-based...
- Sacramental nature of Anglican Church makes it unique...
- Baptism is the ENTRANCE into the life of the Believer in the Anglican Communion...

iv. HISTORIC THREE-FOLD MODES OF MINISTRY / HISTORIC EPISCOPATE [Bishops, Priests and Deacons]

- This does not denigrate the laity or the church's understanding of the priesthood of all Believers.
- This is build around the other ministries e.g. Teachers, Evangelists etc.
- Role of the Bishop...
- Points to authority – hence Lay Ministers are 'licensed' – prevents everyone from just doing their 'own thing'...

6. THIRTY NINE ARTICLES OF RELIGION:

- Inherited Faith from early Church...
- Process of many, many decades to get to the 39 Articles...
- Agreed upon by the Archbishops of both Provinces and the entire body of Clergy at as Convocation held in London in 1562 – for avoiding the difference of opinions and establishing of consent touching true religion...
- Simplifies issues of: [just a few are mentioned here]

Trinity

Christ the Son of God

What it means Christ descending into hell

Christ's resurrection

The role of the Holy Spirit

The sufficiency of Scripture

Of the three creeds

Free-will

Works of Justification

Christ alone without sin

Sin after Baptism

Predestination and Election

Salvation through Christ

The Church

Purgatory
Ministering in the Congregation
Etc.
Etc.

7. ANGLICAN WORSHIP TODAY:

- Sacramental ethos...
- Altar / Lord's Table – central focus of Worship – Christ PRESENT in the Sacrament of Holy Communion ...
- There are places that the Eucharist isn't necessarily the central focus or ethos [HST]...
- Anglican Communion able to hold together: raving charismatic / utterly contemplative / totally traditional / 'higher than heaven' / middle of the road / Anglo-catholic / 1662 / Liturgies in vernacular / greater participation of lay persons / greater involvement of women in both leadership and sacerdotal matters / non-affirming places [e.g. exclusive male leadership in sanctuary]...
- Become a 'smorgasbord of traditions' / all held together on the whole by the historical three fold mode of ecclesiology.
- Variety of music traditions [just look at the Diocese of False Bay]...
- We need to hold together the perceived / accepted TRADITION and CHURCHMANSHIP of the local church – here clergy and lay ministers play an important role...
- EVERYWHERE in the world where Anglicans are there is a Prayer Book – which arose from the 1552 [Cranmer] and subsequent 1662 Prayer Book. [when dissected – the basic elements are there but local Prayer Books appeal to CONTEXT.
- This is vital – because liturgy – from the word 'litourgia' means the 'work / expression of the people'... More than an imposition...

8. Lay Ministers called to HONOUR, RESPECT and WORK ALONGSIDE both the generally accepted tradition of the local parish and diocese.

- Worshipped is always choreographed...
- It's DEFINITELY NOT ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT...
- Anglican Liturgy and Worship appeals to all the SENSES – an expression of our WHOLE BEING TO GOD - but its not meant to be an 'alarm clock' – its primary aim is to WORSHIP GOD and bring the BELIEVER CLOSER TO GOD...

9. CONSULT:

- **Book of Common Prayer**
- **Common Prayer**
- **Rubrics in AAPB 1989**
- **Other resources**
- **'Anglican Worship Today' ed. by Colin Buchanan, Trevor Lloyd, and Harold Miller**