

# APPENDIX N

## The Anglican Communion

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The Anglican Communion ([www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org)) comprises 38 self-governing Member Churches (including the Anglican Church of Canada) or Provinces that share several things in common including doctrine, ways of worshipping, mission, and a focus of unity in the Archbishop of Canterbury. Formal mechanisms for meeting include the Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primates' Meeting, together known as the Instruments of Communion.

The 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, was enthroned on the 21st March, 2013. His immediate predecessor was the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Williams, Lord Williams of Oystermouth. The Archbishops of Canterbury are seen by the Anglican Communion of churches as their spiritual leader. He is *primus inter pares*, first among equals of the other Primates (Chief Archbishops, Presiding Bishops) of the various provinces. He is the Primate of All England and Diocesan of the Diocese of Canterbury. His "seat" is in Canterbury Cathedral where there is also "St Augustine's Chair" that marks the significance of Canterbury to Anglicans

The Lambeth Conference is a gathering of the bishops of the Communion and has been held approximately every ten years since 1867. The Conference has consistently rejected any notion of creating a centralized authority in the Communion. While Conference resolutions are respected and influential they are not binding on the Churches of the Communion. Canadian bishops attend and participate in the Conference.

The Anglican Consultative Council emanated from a resolution of the 1968 Lambeth Conference. The Council meets every three years and it is the only global Anglican body that has a constitution and legal standing. The Council does not have any legislative powers. As its name implies, its role is consultative. The Anglican Church of Canada is represented on the Council by three members chosen by the Council of the General Synod — a bishop, a priest or deacon, and a layperson. The Council's constitution can be found on the Anglican Communion website—<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm>

The Primates' Meeting resulted from resolutions of the 1978 Lambeth Conference one of which advised member Churches not to take action concerning issues which are of concern to the whole Anglican Communion without consultation with a Lambeth Conference or with the episcopate through the Primates Committee. The membership of the Primates' Meeting is confined to those bishops who are the Primates, Moderators or Presiding Bishops of the several Provincial Churches. The Primates' Meeting, as a meeting of bishops, enables the global episcopate of the Anglican Communion to be consulted in a limited, but somewhat representative, way between Lambeth Conferences. The Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada participates in the Primates' Meeting.

These instruments are served by a secretariat based at the Anglican Communion Office in London, as well as in New York, Geneva and from 2012 in Nairobi.

Most Communion life, however, is found in the relationships between Anglicans at all levels of church life and work around the globe; dioceses linked with dioceses, parishes with parishes, people with people, all working to further God's mission. There are around 85 million people on six continents who call themselves Anglican (or Episcopalian), in more than 165 countries. These Christian brothers and sisters share prayer, resources, support and knowledge across geographical and cultural boundaries.

Anglicans are committed to proclaiming the good news of the Gospel to all creation as expressed in the Marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise 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

Members of the Anglican Communion around the world are involved with a range of life-changing activities that include evangelism and church growth; providing food, shelter and clothing to those in need; speaking out with and for the oppressed; and setting up schools, hospitals, clinics and universities.

There are also international Anglican networks and Anglican Communion Commissions, Committees and Working Groups that work to achieve these Marks and more. Current projects include a campaign to end violence against women and children, a project to understand how Anglicans read and understand the Bible, and an alliance co-ordinating global Anglican relief, development and advocacy efforts.