



# About the Anglican Church in North America

## Theological Foundations

The Anglican Church in North America affirms the Jerusalem Declaration (2008), and the Fundamental Declarations of the Constitution state the Church's clear commitment to the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, the authority of Holy Scripture, and the historic faith of the Church declared in the three Catholic Creeds. The Church is determined to maintain the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as the Anglican Way has received them.

## The Vision, Mission, and Work

**The Vision:** "Reaching North America with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ"

**The Mission** of the Province is to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people everywhere will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The chief agents of this mission to extend the Kingdom of God are the people of God.

**The Work** of the Province is to equip each member of the Province so that they may reconcile the world to Christ, plant new congregations, and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything commanded by Jesus Christ.

The Province will seek to represent orthodox North American Anglicans in the councils of the Anglican Communion. (*Article III, Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America*)

## Membership and Attendance

The Anglican Church in North America is composed of 1,004 churches in 30 dioceses spread across Canada, the United States, and Mexico. There are 131,822 members, and on an average Sunday there are 85,695 people in worship.

## Organizational Structure

The Anglican Church in North America is a voluntary association of dioceses, and its structure is based upon the principle of subsidiarity, which recognizes that the bulk of ministry happens at the congregational level. A diocese serves to support the ministry of its congregations, and the Province only undertakes those tasks that a congregation or diocese is not in the best position to facilitate. This means that the provincial structure is intentionally lean.

Each diocese shares in the governance of the Province's four structures:

a) **Provincial Council** - The Council meets every year to hear ministry updates from around the Church, consider changes to the Constitution and Canons that might be referred on to the Assembly, elect members to the Executive Committee, and to pass the provincial budget. The Council is made up of the bishop, two lay delegates and one clergy delegate from each diocese. (*Article VII, Canon I.1*)

b) **Provincial Assembly** - The Assembly meets every 3-5 years to vote on any potential changes to the Constitution and Canons. It is made up of lay and clergy representatives from each diocese, with the number of delegates being proportional to the numerical size of each diocese. While the scope of the formal meeting of the Assembly is relatively narrow, the week of the meeting serves a broader purpose for the church, and is filled with worship, speakers, and workshops that draw close to 1,000 attendees from across North America. (*Article VI, Canon I.2*)

c) **College of Bishops** - The College oversees matters pertaining to the faith, worship, and order of the Province, and consists of the bishops of each diocese. (*Article X, Canon I.3*)

d) **Executive Committee** - The Executive Committee is made up of the archbishop and twelve members elected by the Provincial Council. Of the twelve elected members, half are members of the clergy and half are members of the laity. The committee serves as a board of directors, meeting monthly to oversee the business of the Province. Typically ten of these meetings are held by conference call, and two are in person. (*Article VII, Canon 1.4*)

## The Archbishop and Provincial Deans

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach was elected as archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America in 2014. He is aided in his work by nine provincial office staff members, led by the Venerable Canon Dr. Jack Lumanog. The term of the archbishop is 5 years and an archbishop may serve a maximum of 2 terms (*Article IX*). Archbishop Beach is assisted in the administration of the Province by four deans; each with a unique focus. Bishop Ray Sutton is the canonical Dean of the Province and also oversees ecumenical relationships, Bishop John Guernsey oversees provincial affairs, Bishop Bill Atwood oversees international relationships, and Bishop Terrell Glenn oversees the life of the College of Bishops.

## The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion is in a time of reformation. In 2008, the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (GAFCON), which represents the majority of the world's Anglicans, called for the creation of a new provincial home in North America for orthodox Anglicans and, in response, the Anglican Church in North America was established in 2009. The Anglican Church in North America is in full communion with the GAFCON Provinces of Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Congo, South America, and Sudan and South Sudan. This recognition continues to grow in momentum with the Anglican Church in North America being made a full partner province of the Global South, an official structure of the Anglican Communion. In addition, individual dioceses including Sydney Australia, and Northwest Australia, have recently established formal relationships with the North American Province.

## Theological Resources

The Anglican Church in North America has been working to develop robust resources for teaching and worship. A catechism entitled, "To Be a Christian: an Anglican Catechism," has been developed as a tool to help share the faith. Recognizing the challenges of a largely un-churched or de-churched society in which people are approaching faith questions without a preexisting theological framework, the Catechism was developed to start with the most basic of questions, and then build upon that foundation over the course of 345 questions. Because of this unique approach, The Catechism has become a global resource that is being translated into 13 languages.

### For More information:

#### **Website**

<http://www.anglicanchurch.net/>

#### **Constitution and Canons**

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/acna/CURRENT C%26C - 2017 - secure.pdf>

#### **Catechism**

<http://www.anglicanchurch.net/?/main/catechism>

#### **Jerusalem Declaration**

<http://gafcon.org/the-jerusalem-declaration>