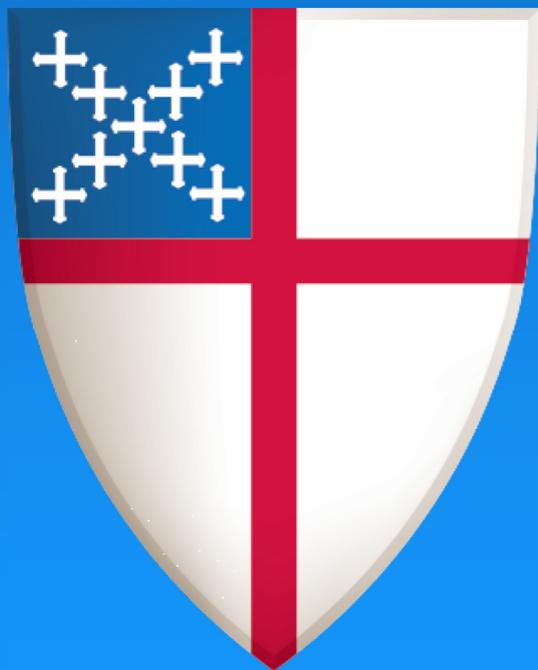
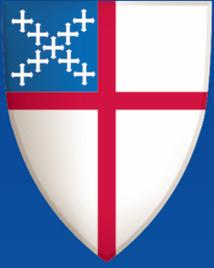


# The Distinctiveness of the Episcopal Tradition

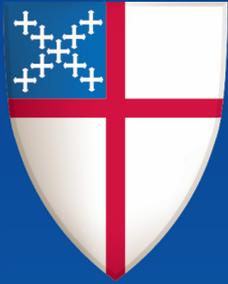


Session #3: Unity in Diversity



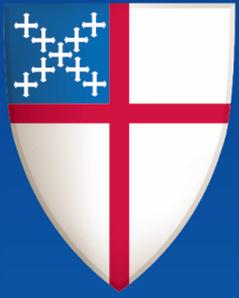
# An Inclusive and Diverse Church

- Anglicanism and therefore the Episcopal Church does make claims to truth, but not *exclusive* claims to truth.
- The Episcopal Church makes no claims to being the “one true Church.”
  - “The Church” = The Christian Church. Includes all the baptized and transcends denominational affiliation.



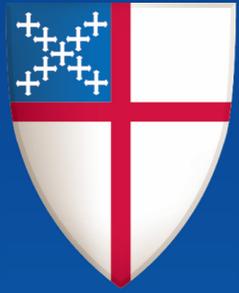
# Creative Tension Is Integral

- Not only with respect to theological and ecclesiological diversity, but also racial/ethnic/cultural diversity.
- Church of England spread via colonization; it followed the British Empire.
  - At first, mission was to British colonists.
  - Later, missionary societies were founded to spread Christianity to indigenous peoples of N. America, Africa, South and East Asia, Australia and New Zealand, the Caribbean, and South Pacific.
- TEC spread with the American Empire
  - First mission to colonists, then indigenous peoples: Philippines, Cuba, Haiti, other Caribbean islands, Central and part of South America.
- Understanding of inculturation grew in mid-20th century along with understanding of anthropology. (Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict)



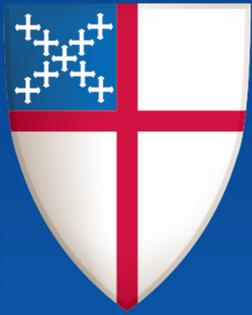
# How We Define Unity in Diversity

- Anglicanism has traditionally had no interest in defining itself to the exclusion of others.
- Certain features make it a particular expression of the Christian Church:
  - Issues relating to authority



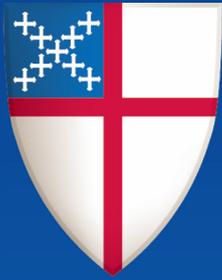
# How Authority Is Exercised

- Combination of episcopal leadership (bishops) with constitutional role of laity and clergy (priests and deacons).
- Theological essentials combined with latitude in their interpretation.
- No central authority to decide on pressing issues when Scripture, Tradition, and reason do not appear to be pointing in the same direction.
- Tolerance and comprehensiveness of a range of internal traditions.
- Affirmation that a national Church with the communion has the right to reform itself.



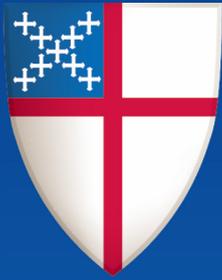
# Other Features of Anglicanism

- Participation of the laity in worship, governance, and discernment of doctrine (baptismal ecclesiology).
- Central emphasis on the corporate celebration of the liturgy (eucharistic ecclesiology).
- Inculturation in liturgy.
- Ministry characterized as pastoral care rather than proselytizing and enforcing doctrinal conformity.
- Bishops as an effective symbol of unity: we are a communion of communions. Breaking communion is a grave matter.



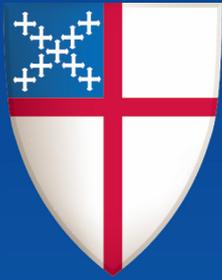
## Specific Expression of Unity in Diversity: Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (1888)

- Four essentials:
  1. The Holy Scriptures: the Word of God, mediated by tradition and reason.
    - Found in liturgy itself (prayers and hymns) as well as the Bible and lectionary (liturgical readings)
    - Shaped the ecumenical creeds, the Anglican formularies, and BCP.
  2. The creeds (Nicene and Apostles') as a sufficient statement of faith.
  3. The "dominical" sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist. Ministered with Christ's words of institution and elements ordained by Christ.
  4. The historic episcopate (bishops), locally adapted.



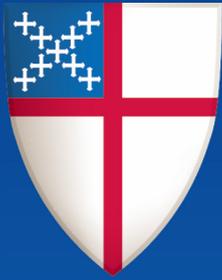
# Quadrilateral, con't

- Used in ecumenical consultations
- TEC in full communion with
  - ELCA: Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
  - Philippine Independent Church
  - Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht
  - The Moravian Church (Northern and Southern provinces)
  - Mar Thoma Church of Malabar (India)
  - The Church of Sweden



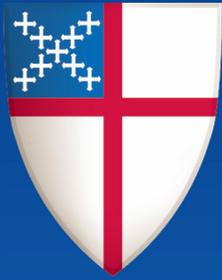
# Mission as Defining Element

- Five 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.



# Anglican Communion in Disarray

- Issues of gender and sexuality
  - TEC's election in 2003 of Gene Robinson a "tipping point" for more conservative bishops
    - Claim that TEC is ignoring clear directive of Scripture
  - Similar claims for approval of same-sex marriage
  - Is handling of issues in harmony with "Anglican Way?"
- Future of AC in doubt



# Discussion Questions

1. What is your reaction to hearing, “It depends...” as the beginning of an answer to a question of a religious/spiritual/theological nature?
2. Do you think the Anglican Way of defining “unity in diversity” is sufficient? Is there such a thing as being too diverse?
3. Does a communion of national churches make sense in the 21st century?