

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR CONFSSIONAL ANGLICANISM?

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Talk 1 The State of Play in the Anglican Church of Australia

Introduction ACA constitution - protection and constraint

1. Shared commitments, but different understandings

- a. Liturgical reform - *AAPB, APBA, Common Prayer*
- b. Doctrinal reform - women's ministry, human sexuality, divorce and remarriage

2. Fragile relationships

- a. Female Presbyters and female Bishops - impaired communion
- b. Diaconal administration of the Lord's Supper - impaired communion
- c. Homosexuality and Christian ministry - Gippsland and Bishops' Protocols
- d. Church planting & the gospel - Structures & Viability Report (2014)

3. A possible future

- a. A new paradigm for describing the Anglican landscape - Bishop Jonathan Holland
- b. A renewed alignment of Evangelicals - General Synod and Standing Committee, FCA
- c. A recognition of the smell of death - while there's death there's hope!

The Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia

Fundamental Declarations

1. The Anglican Church of Australia, being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, holds the Christian Faith as professed by the Church of Christ from primitive times and in particular as set forth in the creeds known as the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed.
2. This Church receives all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary for salvation.
3. This Church will ever obey the commands of Christ, teach His doctrine, administer His sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, follow and uphold His discipline and preserve the three orders of bishops, priests and deacons in the sacred ministry.

Ruling Principles

4. This Church, being derived from the Church of England, retains and approves the doctrine and principles of the Church of England embodied in the Book of Common Prayer together with the Form and Manner of Making Ordaining and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests and Deacons and in the Articles of Religion sometimes called the Thirty-nine Articles but has plenary authority at its own discretion to make statements as to the faith ritual ceremonial or discipline of this Church and to order its forms of worship and rules of discipline and to alter or revise such statements, forms and rules, provided that all such statements, forms, rules or alteration or revision thereof are consistent with the Fundamental Declarations contained herein and are made as prescribed by this Constitution. Provided, and it is hereby further declared, that the above-named Book of Common Prayer, together with the Thirty-nine Articles, be regarded as the authorised standard of worship and doctrine in this Church, and no alteration in or permitted variations from the services or Articles therein contained shall contravene any principle of doctrine or worship laid down in such standard.

Provided further that until other order be taken by canon made in accordance with this Constitution, a bishop of a diocese may, at his discretion, permit such deviations from the existing order of service, not contravening any principle of doctrine or worship as aforesaid, as shall be submitted to him by the incumbent and churchwardens of a parish.

THE BISHOPS' PROTOCOLS

The following Protocols express the common mind of the bishops as determined by consensus at our National Meeting. Each protocol bears the date it was first agreed. We confirm our agreement to abide by them and renew this commitment annually by consensus. These protocols are voluntary agreements by the bishops for the exercise of their ministry. They are developed within the framework of the Constitution and Canons of the Church and in the light of resolutions and statements made by the General Synod and its Standing Committee.

While these protocols have no legislative force, it is expected that our bishops will abide by them, as an expression of the bonds of affection and unity that we share in the gospel and our collegiality in episcopal ministry.

PROTOCOL 19

FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

As we ordain, license or appoint to ministries within our dioceses we undertake to uphold "Faithfulness in Service," the code of conduct for bishops adopted by the General Synod in Resolution 59/04 and as amended by the General Synod from time to time.