

Global Realignment: Who We Are and Where We Stand *A Theological Perspective*

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1. Aim of talk

To ensure that we know:

- who we are
- what we are doing, and why
- how to explain it when challenged

2. The Anglican Communion

a. The Church of God:

- i. The fellowship of the faithful
- ii. The Father's family
- iii. The body of Christ
- iv. The community of the Holy Spirit

b. The Church's unity:

- i. A given fact - Eph. 4:4-6
- ii. Reality to express - Eph. 4:1-3; Jn. 17:21-23
- iii. Schism (unwarranted separation) is always sin, but realignment may become a duty.

c. The Anglican Communion:

- i. Biblical
- ii. Creedal
- iii. Liturgical
- iv. Pastoral (Episcopal)
- v. Missional
- vi. Provinces, dioceses, parishes
- vii. Instruments of Unity

3. Anglicans Adrift

The Anglican Communion is like a torn net, due to misshapen growth

- a. The root: Liberal theology - attitudes of reverence and love, acquired from within the Christian tradition, now shaped by contemporary cultural pressures and processes (intellectual and societal)
Liberal theology has dominated seminaries for two generations, muffling conservative theology
- b. The fruit: The world writes the agenda (women / racism / minorities / homosexuality)

- c. The story: Lambeth Conference 1998
New Westminster 2002
The Windsor Report
The St. Michael's Report
General Synod 2004
General Synod 2007
Essentials, and the Network; realignment

4. Anglicans Anchored

- a. We are a community of conscience, committed to the Anglican convictions
- b. We are a community of church people committed to the Anglican Communion
- c. We are a community of consecration committed to the Anglican calling (doxology and discipling = worship and mission)
- d. We are a community of courage, committed to the Anglican confidence in the faithfulness of God.