

Questions from the Audience

Answers from the St. Michael’s Discipleship Task Force, The Rev. Al Zadig, Jr.,  
The Rev. Randy Shirley and The Rev. Dr. Peter Moore

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*Comment*

Two thoughts as reminders for my brothers and sisters in Christ:

- Regarding Christians not taking Christians to court: TEC no longer fits the definition of “Christian” (even according to Webster’s Dictionary). Jesus says He is the only way to the Father.
- Not only should we pray for our Bishop and Rector but also do practical things to encourage them (notes, etc.). They have more at stake than any of us—their “jobs”/income, homes.

Bless you St. Michaels, Al for these sessions.

*Questions*

1. Does the Episcopal Church still subscribe to the concept of a three-legged stool (scripture, history/tradition, reason)? Is it fair to note that it is off balance currently?

Yes, but nothing official. In practice TEC would define “reason” as one’s current experience of “the spirit” and it trumps both scripture and tradition.

2. What does the Episcopal Church hope to gain by dislocating or destroying all of these God-fearing, strong churches?

It will gain millions and millions of dollars of sell-able real estate, and help maintain a dying institution. It rejects “god-fearing” churches, and thinks that they are “fundamentalist” and they are proud of purging the Episcopal Church from what they see as an alien intrusion.

3. Will there be a Lambeth Conference in 2018?

Lambeth is planned for 2020, missing the usual 10-year period because so many of the bishops in the communion will not come to Lambeth – because the Archbishop of Canterbury insists on inviting all the Episcopal church’s bishops, and the Anglican Church of Canada’s. Both houses of bishops have approved and elected partnered gay/lesbian bishops and the rest of the communion believes this is a rejection of scripture. Hence they will not come.

However, the GAFCON (Global Anglican Futures Conference) will be held in Jerusalem this June (17-23) and there will be about 2,000 Anglicans from all over the world rejoicing together in the light of the gospel.

4. Why do we still use the 1870’s BCP? Do you feel that it fits our future vision?

We are using the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 – which is a major revision of the 1662 BCP and the 1928 BCP. There is no reason for our continuing to use it, and the Anglican Church in North America is in the process of producing a new Book of Common Prayer. Already we have a new

holy communion service, morning and evening prayer, ordination service, and many other services. Eventually we'll have a totally new prayer book – though it will retain much of what we love about the historic BCP.

5. What do you suggest as a strategy for discussion with people who reject scripture/church? How can you defend the Christian concept of marriage when there is rejection of scripture and faith?

The current strategy is to give up “defending” these things, and to create new structures that reflect a biblical understanding of Christology, salvation and holiness of life. As for discussing with those who reject the basic foundational principles of Anglicanism, we should simply point out that the great bulk of contemporary Anglicanism (and Christianity in general) does not agree with the revisionist teachings that are currently in vogue within the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church tries very hard to look like it is part of the worldwide communion, but increasingly it is isolated within that communion.

The best defense of Christian marriage is to have one.