Anglican Polity
A Worldwide Communion
A Worldwide Communion

- Although Anglicanism originated in England, it is now a worldwide Church.
- It is made up of 40 autonomous, geographically based provinces.
- The demographics of the communion have shifted over the last 100 years.
Global Distribution of Anglicans

How is the Communion Bound Together?

- Instruments of Unity
  - The Archbishop of Canterbury
  - Lambeth Conference
  - The Primates Meeting
  - The Anglican Consultative Council
- Lately, these Instruments have become shaky at best
The Structure of a Province

Province/Archbishop

Diocese Bishop
  Parish Rector

Diocese Bishop
  Parish Rector

Diocese Bishop
  Parish Rector

Parish Rector

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Parish Rector

Parish Rector
The Structure of a Parish

- Bishop
  - Rector
    - Assisting Clergy
    - Staff
  - Vestry
    - Wardens
Orders of Ministry

- Deacon
  - This is a ministry of service
  - The Deacon brings the needs of the world to the church
  - Liturgically, Deacons read the Gospel at Holy Communion and prepare the altar
  - Deacons cannot consecrate the elements or give a priestly blessing
Orders of Ministry

- Deacon
  - Transitional vs. Permanent
  - Typically non-stipendiary
  - In worship the deacon wears his stole over his left shoulder
Orders of Ministry

• Priest

• This is perhaps the most common order for parish ministry

• It is primarily a liturgical order

• A priest may preside at the Eucharist (Holy Communion), weddings, baptisms, and funerals
Orders of Ministry

- Priest
  - He wears a stole over both shoulders, sometimes crossed at the waste
  - A priest may pronounce the absolution and give the priestly blessing in the absence of a Bishop
Orders of Ministry

- Bishop
  
  - A bishop’s primary duty is leadership, designated by his bishop’s crook, or crosier
  
  - The Bishop is the primary defender of the faith
  
  - A bishop is required for confirmation and ordination
Orders of Ministry

- Bishop
  - 3 Bishops are needed to consecrate a new bishop
  - The Bishop is technically the head of each parish in his diocese
  - Only a bishop may wear purple
  - Diocesan vs. Suffragan bishops
Titles and Tasks
The Reverend

This is a title, but not a form of address

A bishop is The Most Reverend, a canon or dean is The Very Reverend
Titles and Tasks

- Archdeacon
  - A senior priest in a diocese to whom the Bishop has designated a specific leadership duty
  - The title for an Archdeacon is “The Venerable”
Titles and Tasks

- Canon
  - A person (priest or deacon) who works directly for the Bishop in some specific capacity
Titles and Tasks

- **Rector:** The senior pastor of a parish
  - The Rector technically is called by and works for the bishop
- **Vicar:** Either a senior associate to a Rector or the senior pastor of a mission church
- **Curate:** A newly ordained priest in his first parish
Titles and Tasks

- Vestry: The lay leadership body of the parish
  - Sr. Warden: Head of the Vestry
  - Jr. Warden, Treasurer, Clerk
  - Responsible for the temporal matters of the church
Questions???