



THE DAILY ENCOMPASS



GENERAL CONVENTION 2006 NEWS & COMMENTARY FROM THE AMERICAN ANGLICAN COUNCIL

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A CALL TO MISSION

The American Anglican Council (AAC) is a network of individuals (laity, deacons, priests and bishops), parishes and specialized ministries who affirm Biblical authority and Christian orthodoxy within the Anglican Communion. In response to the Lord's calling and by His grace, we commit ourselves to proclaim the Good News to every person and to reform and renew the Church of Jesus Christ. We are uniting in order to fulfill our apostolic mission and ministry, working to build a faithful Anglican witness in the Americas.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph. 6:10-12)

WindsoR RepoRt

REPENT + REAFFIRM + ROLLBACK

The Daily Encompass

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Worshipping at the daily Forward-in-Faith Eucharist.

"The Episcopal Church"—it's official

General Convention 2006 is the occasion of showcasing the new brand of The Episcopal Church. Further investigation has revealed the background on this change. Below is "the rest of the story" as relayed to AAC Staff: This is the only canonical name of the church. The preamble to the Constitution reads "The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church." So traditional and conservative instincts combine to replace ECUSA which has crept like some unwanted slang into common usage largely through its use elsewhere in the world, not least by the Archbishop of Canterbury. ECUSA appears nowhere in the constitution, and is slowly being eradicated from most official publications and documents. But there is no such entity.

The title also honors the fact that the church exists in sixteen nations, some beyond the Americas. There are of course other Episcopal churches, in Scotland, Brazil and the Philippines. But TEC is the oldest, after Scot-

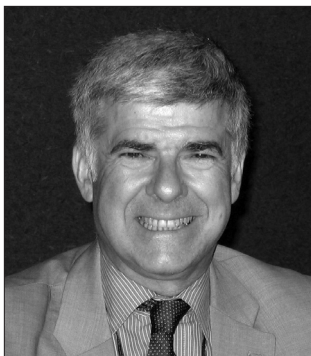
land. And as Bishop Whalon of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe said at the Wednesday evening hearings "The Episcopal Church is the only global church in the Anglican Communion."

The decision does not belong in the legislative process. A number of years ago a lot of time was given to legislation on stem cell research which was outdated by progress in science within a month. So such decisions were moved into the information category and off the floor of the house.

Ruth Gledhill of *The Times of London* on her daily weblog writes: "You have to wonder how long it will be before the Episcopal is also dropped and it simply becomes The Church. Or perhaps, instead, The E Church. Short for Empty. We in the rest of the world will be The A Church. Short for Alpha. (I couldn't resist that joke, sorry. Actually, as I said before, I prefer The Episcopal Church as a title. I just wonder what they are really up to.)" +

Imperialism Revisited

BY CHRIS SUGDEN



Take yourself back to the 1770s. A message comes to the camp of the Revolutionary American forces. It's from the British Army commander in the field. He offers peace talks, and encloses a letter of invitation to some of the Revolutionary American leaders identifying those leaders the British would

like to represent the Revolutionary Americans at the peace talks.

Fast forward to the 1900s. The British Empire is in toils in India and Ireland. The British Government through the Viceroy's Council identifies respectively in India and in Ireland persons to represent the national communities on the Governing Council. These

invitations were eventually rejected by national leaders as part of a necessary process of the emergence of genuine national leadership and a level playing field of discussion.

The British knew how to run an empire and succeeded for over 200 years. One important way was to identify those from outside who would represent their fellows in any consultations. It was an important exercise of patronage; it was a way to socialize and educate leaders of other nationalities in the ways of the British. It also offered the semblance of access to power to those who wanted to make some contribution to the exercise of it. However it retained firmly in the hands of the empire the control of who those representatives were.

It was therefore most interesting to sit in the legislative hearing on the resolutions that have been prepared by the Special Commission on Responses to the *Windsor Report* and listen to the following argument which was in substance: We are committed to interdependence in the Anglican Communion and to make provision for inviting members from other provinces to serve with voice but not vote as an expression of interdependence.

This was offered as a response to the problem that ECUSA appeared to refuse to accept accountability to the rest of the Communion. [We need to note of

course that the fault however was not a failure to consult but what was decided.]

In this hearing the committee redefined what interdependence would mean—to invite members from the rest of the communion to sit on their commissions, with voice not vote. Most of the discussion about the invitation was around which bodies in ECUSA had the right to issue the invitation for the simple reason that those members would be identified and invited by ECUSA.

What was being talked about gave expression to the exercise of imperial power. What needs to be clearly heard is that no self-respecting member of any Anglican province outside ECUSA would even open the letter of invitation.

It is therefore with some considerable relief to read the final version of the resolution: that “The Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons,

as an expression of this interdependence, make provision for persons from other Provinces of the Anglican Communion to serve with voice not vote on each of the Stand-

ing Commissions of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.” The words are much better. But has the spirit changed? +

THE BRITISH KNEW HOW TO RUN AN EMPIRE AND SUCCEEDED FOR OVER 200 YEARS. ONE IMPORTANT WAY WAS TO IDENTIFY THOSE FROM OUTSIDE WHO WOULD REPRESENT THEIR FELLOWS IN ANY CONSULTATIONS. IT WAS AN IMPORTANT EXERCISE OF PATRONAGE; IT WAS A WAY TO SOCIALIZE AND EDUCATE LEADERS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES IN THE WAYS OF THE BRITISH.

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali to Preach at AAC Eucharist

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, bishop of Rochester, UK, and a staunch defender of the faith, will be preaching at an AAC-sponsored Eucharist on Friday, June 16, at 7:00pm at the Nationwide Arena. The Rt. Rev. Peter Beckwith, Bishop of Springfield, will be the celebrant. All are welcome to attend! +

AAC Lunch Briefings

The AAC is hosting daily General Convention legislative briefings at the Nationwide Arena at the corner of Nationwide Blvd. and West Street three blocks west of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Briefings will begin approximately 30 minutes after the adjournment of the House of Deputies and last for 30 to 40 minutes. +