

Diocese of Ontario

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Anglican Communion consists of a family of mutually responsible and interdependent Churches, each with its own synodical structure. For the most part these Churches are organized on a national basis, though some (like Southern Africa or Central Africa) transcend national boundaries. There are 45 of these national or regional churches worldwide, comprising some 800 dioceses and about 85 million Anglicans. We are the second most widely-distributed Christian body in the world, next to the Roman Catholic Church.

There is no central legislative Anglican body, nor any central authority. In structure, the Anglican Communion is much like the British Commonwealth, with the Archbishop of Canterbury at its head. The organs of the Anglican unity are the Lambeth Conference, The Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primates' meeting.

The Lambeth Conference

The Lambeth Conference is one of the global Anglican Communion's Instruments of Communion. It takes place every ten years at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury (Justin Welby). It is the one occasion when all bishops can meet for worship, study and conversation. Archbishops, diocesan, assistant and suffragan bishops are invited.