

The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church in North America [ACNA]

After former Bishop Jack Iker left The Episcopal Church, he and other former diocesan leaders allied themselves with a newly formed entity called the Anglican Church of North America [ACNA]. Recently the public affairs staff of The Episcopal Church offered the following information as a resource for Episcopalians who may have questions about ACNA.

As those of us in the Diocese of Fort Worth can attest, it is an inaccurate and misleading image to picture those who have broken away from The Episcopal Church as the persecuted faithful, when in reality those who have remained have felt deeply hurt, and now in some cases are exiled from their own church buildings by ACNA.

And some perspective -- The Episcopal Church is over 7400 congregations in 109 dioceses plus three regional areas in 16 countries with 2.2 million members. Membership in ACNA includes churches and denominations which have disassociated from The Episcopal Church, some recently, and others that did so over the course of the last 130 years. This makes it hard to ascertain a definitive number of members of ACNA.

ACNA is led by Archbishop Robert Duncan, who is not a member of The Episcopal Church, The Church of England, the Anglican Church of Canada, or The Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church is a member province of the worldwide Anglican Communion, serving God together and working together to bring the Reign of God on earth. ACNA is not a member of the Worldwide Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church is clear about what it believes. The Episcopal Church laity and clergy believe the Christian faith as stated in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. We call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible. We look to the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the understanding of the Scriptures. Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Episcopal Church welcomes all who wish to serve God through Jesus Christ.

The Episcopal Church welcomes women in ordained ministry – deacons, priests and bishops. The Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church is the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, the first woman to lead The Episcopal Church as well as any of the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion. ACNA does not permit women to serve as bishops and, in some areas, bars women from all ordination.

And finally, it is important to note that those who have remained in The Episcopal Church in those places where some have left include conservatives as well as liberals, persons on the political right as well as on the political left, and everything in between.

The Episcopal Church

Office of Public Affairs

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