

Spring 2017
The General Theological Seminary

CH188 “Increased Intercommunion”:
Lessons from the Lambeth Conferences

Description:

To paraphrase Mark Twain, reports of the death of the Anglican Communion have been greatly exaggerated. Following a tumultuous first decade in the twentieth-first century, this global family of 38 autonomous national and regional Churches somehow continues to hold together. Indeed, it might well be that one of the greatest gifts of Anglicanism to the world is the continuance of relationships, mission, and common prayer despite significant disagreements. The Communion is, as +Desmond Tutu once said, “messy, but very loveable.”

This course explores the vital role that Lambeth Conferences have played in the life of the Communion, considering both the historical context and practical lessons of these gatherings.

Learning Outcomes:

- Articulate what it means to be Anglican in today’s world.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the issues and impact of the various Conferences.
- Teach church members about the importance of the centenary of Lambeth 1920.
- Cultivate increased interest in Lambeth 2020 and show practical local implications.

Schedule:

Jan 30—Introduction: Looking to 2020	Mar 20—War and Peace: 1930-1958
Feb 6—A History of Councils and Synods	Mar 27—Growth and Change: 1968-1978
Feb 13—The Communion in the 1860s	Apr 3—The ACC and Primates’ Meetings
Feb 20—The First Lambeth Conference (VBF)	Apr 10—Conflict and Diversity: 1998-2008
Feb 27—A Tradition is Born (VBF)	Apr 17— <i>Easter Monday, no class</i>
Mar 6—The Great Conference of 1920	Apr 24—Challenges for Today
Mar 13— <i>Spring break, no class</i>	May 8—A Communion for the Future

Texts:

Required: *The Study of Anglicanism, revised* (Stephen Sykes, John Booty, Jonathan Knight)

Required: *Lambeth and Reunion: An Interpretation of the Mind of Lambeth Conference of 1920*
Various books and resources will be offered throughout the course.

Assignments and percentage of final grade:

Diocesan review of Communion relationships, due Feb 20 – 20%

Brief teaching on the importance of the Quadrilateral, due Mar 20 – 20%

Quiz on key issues and figures, due April 10– 10%

Attendance and active class participation – 20%

Final paper: Adult teaching series on the significance of Lambeth 2020, due May 15 – 30%

Instructor:

The Rev. Canon C. K. Robertson, D.D., Ph.D. is the Presiding Bishop's "Canon Secretary of State," has extensive experience in the Anglican Communion, and was present at Lambeth 1998 and 2008. You can contact him at crobertson@episcopalchurch.org or by cell at 646-578-9549.

The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer, will assist Dr. Robertson. She is a Th.D. student at General, as well as a priest in New York and director of the Episcopal Service Corps New York.

Further Instructions:

A student who has a disability that requires modification of class activities or requirements should contact the Registrar before the first class session officially to register the disability. The Registrar will then authorize the instructor to provide any modifications needed.

Students are urged to read *The Academic Regulations* of the seminary, available on the seminary's website, www.gts.edu, under "Academics," then "Course Offerings and Registrar." The Policy on Inclusive Language deserves special attention.

There are no prerequisites or corequisites for this course.