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DS 500 – Anglican Polity **January interterm, 2018**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this 1 credit course is to gain familiarity with the 'polity' of the Anglican Church of Canada. We will enquire into the system of institutional authority embodied in the canons of the ACC, including the governance structures active at the parish, diocesan, provincial, and national levels. The question of "authority" has been at the center of the life of Anglicanism ever since the 15th century. On what grounds does the Anglican Church claim inclusion in the "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church of Christ?" Although that question might seem dated now, the question for us is, "how does the polity of the ACC embody or reflect these theological grounds of ecclesiastical authority by which our tradition came answer this question?"

PREREQUISITES: None

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will learn about the different levels of decision making authority within the Anglican Church Structure from the world-wide Communion to General Synod to province to diocese to parish;
2. The student will gain a broad understanding of the history of the question of 'authority' within the Anglican Church, and analyze the governance structures of the Anglican Church in the light of this history;
3. The student will practice applying those canons applicable to parish governance, and in diocesan issues of episcopal leadership and synodical authority;
4. The student will apply her knowledge of Anglican Polity to a particular current issue needing multilevel discernment within the Anglican Church of Canada.

FORMAT AND CONTENT:

This is a 1.0 credit hour course to be held over 2 days in the January interterm period. It is mandatory for all Anglican MDiv. students. The course consists of lecture, in-class discussion and exercises, assigned readings, and a final paper.

TEXTS: All required texts are on reserve (see below)

RESERVES: These are required reading *before* the beginning of the course.

Bays, Patricia. *Anglican Diversity: Challenges for the 21st Century* (Toronto: ABC Publishing, 2001), Chapt. 8: "Authority in the Anglican Communion."

Stevick, Daniel B. "Canon Law" in Stephen Sykes, et al (eds), *The Study of Anglicanism, Revised Ed.* (London/Minneapolis: SPCK/Fortress Press, 1988), pp.216-248

Stuchbery, Ian. *This is Our Faith: A Guide to Life and Belief for Anglicans* (Toronto: ABC Publishing, 1990), Chapt. 11: “The Anglican Church of Canada: How it Works.”

Canons from various dioceses will be provided at the time of the course.

COURSE POLICIES

- 1. Attendance on both days of the 2-day course** is mandatory
- 2. Reading and assignments** Students are expected to read all required assignments before class and to complete all assignments as outlined in the syllabus within the specified dates of the course and term.
- 3. Academic honesty** Students are expected to adhere to VST’s requirements for academic honesty as published in the Student Handbook.
- 4. Inclusive language** In speaking and writing, inclusive language is expected when making reference to humans and a variety of metaphors are anticipated when making reference to God.
- 5. Assignment and Course Evaluation**
 - Course evaluations at VST combine a letter grade system (A+ to B-; course failure is “Not Approved”) including narrative comments based on the competencies of the course. No number grades or weights of assignments are calculated, nor are final grades given numerical equivalents.
 - Individual assignments within a course are given narrative evaluations, that is, APP (Approved) or INC (Incomplete) with narrative comments, based on the competencies and expectations set for that assignment. One re-write is allowed on any assignment that is INC. The re-written assignment is due two weeks after the work is returned. The final evaluation for an assignment can be APP or NAPP after a re-write.
 - For a passing grade in the course, all assignments must be Approved.
- 6. Late assignments**
There is only one extra-class assignment for this course: the final paper. Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. The final paper is due on the date specified in the syllabus. Failure to submit the final paper on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment and may affect the final grade for the course.
- 7.** VST is committed to creating safe space and an inclusive learning environment. If you have a diagnosed or suspected learning disability, chronic condition, mental health concern, or physical requirement which you anticipate may impact your participation in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs with the instructor and the Dean before the course begins.

CALENDAR

Please have read the following before the start of the course:

- Daniel B. Stevick, “Canon Law” in *The Study of Anglicanism*
- Sykes, Stephen, “The Fundamentals of Christianity” in *The Study of Anglicanism*

- Stuchbery, Ian. *This is Our Faith: A Guide to Life and Belief for Anglicans*, Chapt. 11: “The Anglican Church of Canada: How it Works.”
- Bays, Patricia. *Anglican Diversity: Challenges for the 21st Century*, Chapt. 8: “Authority in the Anglican Communion.”

Jan 9, 2-8 pm Authority and Polity: How are they Related? An historical and ecclesiological investigation into the Authority of the Anglican Church. What gives a church authority to be the Church?

Jan 10, 2-8 pm Authority over and for what? What falls within the jurisdiction of the Church?
 Historical establishmentarianism, secularism, Church and State: from the Act of Supremacy to Bishop-in-Synod.
 The Structures of Authority in ever-widening circles of influence: parish-diocese-province-national province-worldwide communion. Who takes care of what areas of church life?
 Practising on the Diocesan and General Synod canons.

Feb. 1 Final papers due

EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

1. Class participation: Students are expected to participate in class discussions, and do adequate preparation of in-class discussion exercises. Evaluative criteria: comments and questions show adequate preparation, an understanding of the assigned readings and exercises, and a readiness to apply readings to interpretive questions and insights.
2. Final paper: this paper will help students gain knowledge of the structures of authority within the Anglican Church of Canada, the jurisdiction of each level of authority, and how the decisions are made in regards to matters of consequence for the church. Evaluative criteria: concise and clear writing, and completeness and accuracy in carrying out tasks assigned. Each student will choose a recent or current issue under debate within the ACC, examine the different issues of the debate (historical, theological, doctrinal), and without arguing for one position or another, describe the process by which a decision is made – taking into account each level of influence and governance (from the world-wide communion to the parish level).

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Avis, Paul. *In Search of Authority: Anglican Theological Method* (T&T Clark, 2014).

Baycroft, John A. “Episcopacy in relation to Synods” in *Frontiers Then and Now* (Toronto:ABC Publishing, 1989), pp.33-53

Harris. R.V. *An Historical Introduction to the Study of the Canon Law of the Anglican Church of Canada* (Toronto: 1965).

Hinchliff, Peter. “Church-State Relations” in Stephen Sykes, et al (eds), *The Study of Anglicanism, Revised Ed.* (London/Minneapolis: SPCK/Fortress Press, 1988), pp.392-404.

Hooker, Richard. *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.

Jewel, John. "An Apology of the Church of England." Access at:
(<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/17678/17678-h.htm>)

Markham, I.S. *et al* (eds). *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Anglican Communion* (Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, 2013).

Millman, Thomas R. "Beginnings of the Synodical Movement in Colonial Anglican Churches with special reference to Canada," *Journal of the Canadian Church Historical Society* 21 (1979), pp.3-19. (Access at:
<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail?vid=14&hid=113&sid=8be390f3-cf11-48ae-b528-53af11aefa4e%40sessionmgr110&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtbG12ZQ%3d%ed#db=rh&AN=ATLA0000994676>)

Neufeld, Bryan. *Prolegomena to an Anglican Discussion of Authority: The Role of History in the Current Crisis* (M.A. Thesis, University of Winnipeg, 2016). Access at:
<http://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/bitstream/handle/10680/1223/Neufeld,%20Bryan.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Pilling, John T. "Many are One: Papers on Episcopal/Synodical Government." *Journal of the Canadian Church Historical Society* 21, (1979), pp.1-20.

Sykes, Stephen W. "The Fundamentals of Christianity" in Stephen Sykes, et al (eds), *The Study of Anglicanism, Revised Ed.* (London/Minneapolis: SPCK/Fortress Press, 1988), pp.262-276. [This is a study on the concept of Authority]

Zahl, P.F.M. "The Bishop-Led Church: The Episcopal or Anglican Polity" in Brand & Norman (eds). *Perspectives on Church Government: Five views of Church Polity* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2004).

Online Resources

St. John's Church, Orangeville. "Anglican Polity." St. John's Church.
<http://www.stjohnsorangeville.ca/Resources/Anglican%20Polity.pdf>.

The Anglican Church of Canada. "8. Governance and Accountability, Denominational Governance." <http://www.anglican.ca/faith/eir/esm/08-governance/>.

The Anglican Communion Office. "Canon Law." 2016.
<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/identity/canon-law.aspx>.

The Anglican Communion Office. "What Is the Anglican Communion?" Anglican Communion. 2016. <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/identity/about.aspx>.

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. “Anglican Church of Canada Organizational / Structural Definitions.” The Anglican Church of Canada.
<http://www.anglican.ca/help/faq/definitions/>.

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. “About Us” <http://www.anglican.ca/about/>the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.
“The Anglican Church of Canada: Metropolitans of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon.” <http://www.anglican.ca/help/faq/metropolitans-bcyk/>.

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. *Handbook of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada: 17th Edition*, Published 2013.
<http://images.anglican.ca/pdf/handbook/handbook-17th-ed.pdf>.

The Anglican Church of Canada. Rules of Order – General Synod.
http://images.anglican.ca/pdf/handbook/104_rules_of_order.pdf