

“Mere Anglicanism” Charleston- Epiphany, 2006

by Glen Miller O.S.V.



About 200 people from all the United States, and abroad attended the opening lecture given by Os Guinness in the nave of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul. The global impact of the Anglican Communion was a key topic. More than 70 Episcopalian Clergy, other Clergy, and about 100 Lay people from Episcopal and other churches attended the lectures. Cathedral Staff worked around the clock to make it all a great success. In addition to two and a half days of lectures, small-group sessions provided an opportunity for attendees to exchange ideas.



OSV Director Phil Dixon (left) and Baron Fain Secretary General, attending the conference.



Dr. Stephen Noll, urged Churches in the USA and Canada to ‘repent’ of innovations, and for all to adopt a communion-wide covenant based on the 1662 BCP and the 39 Articles of Faith, to establish strict pastoral accountability across the Communion, and to return to the Bible as the final judge for Faith and Morals. Dr. Noll sees no possibility for reconciliation with “revisionists”, and says that a new Network must be formed in order for traditional Anglicanism to move forward.



Rt. Rev'd. Fitzsimons Allison and Dr. Os Guinness answer questions during a break. The Cathedral bookshop stocks publications from both authors, including “Prophetic Untimeliness” by OS Guinness and “The Cruelty of Heresy” by C. Fitzsimons Allison.

Dr. Guinness warned us that the Global South (Churches in Africa, South America and Asia) though representing the largest number of Anglicans, is not necessarily a role model for the churches in the Northern Hemisphere. They are very strictly taught, and they are pre-modern, and the pre-modern church cannot answer the problems of modern societies. Yet the modern world has not much to teach them except error and failure. Globalisation and technology are responsible for many of the problems we face in the Church today. There is, he says, no political system that can deal with Global issues. The Church has the broadest reach across the World, and faith-based organisations have the most powerful motives. 'The Church' has the best track record for justice and compassion, and a record second to none in human care. Even the Chinese are considering Christianity as a possible replacement for Marxism, because Christianity is in favor of the modern World, whereas Islam, and Buddhism are not. Christian organisations are the first contact for many third world communities. We are booming in missions in Africa, but not in the USA, not among educated people. In the USA the number of people who say they are Christian but who are living opposite to the Gospel, is appalling. Confusion within the Church is a disaster for the Church. The Good News is Jesus, not Globalisation and technology, for if we use technology and not the Lord's way, we will be doing it wrong. God is against His 'gifts' (technology etc.) if they get in the way of the Lord or substitute for the Lord. Our blessings can get in the way of God. God wants us to trust Him, and not trust in Globalisation or technology.

Dr. Os Guinness is a co-founder and a senior fellow of the Trinity Forum. You can hear one of his talks at <http://www.veritas.org/mediafiles/A95MICH06.mp3>

Dr. Stephen Noll said: the rot of modernity has eaten away Anglicanism, we have to go back to the fundamentals, and this will come from the Global South, the 39 Articles and the 1662 BCP. He said we need to revive the 39 articles and make them the one globally accepted Anglican statement. A new covenant would need to define moral standards, and methods of discipline for clergy.

Dr. Noll said we need to become a missionary Church. In Nigeria the Church has grown from 6 Million to 18 Million in a few short years, while the Church of England has lost many members. The English Government is undermining the Church of England's position on marriage. The Office of Archbishop of Canterbury as currently constituted is an obstacle to a Global Communion, because it is a position appointed by the British Government - it should be a titular position and open to worldwide candidates. ECUSA is declining, liberal activism is dying out. As the older money dies ECUSA will lose control and Anglicanism will be centered in the Global South. The Global Anglican Communion is coming; *remember Lot's wife!*

Dr. Noll is Vice Chancellor of Uganda Christian University, he also has a parish ministry, and is the author of many books.

Jonathan French, of Sewanee gave a powerful message to return to Christ's teachings. And, as an example of how far the Church has failed in its education programs, he told the story about having dinner with 20 seminarians, all fairly young (many seminarians are in their 50's and 60's), and during the heated theological discussions he asked how many of them believed in the resurrection. Ten of the seminarians said they did not, and five others said they would take no position on the matter.

In the closing minutes of the meeting, the Rev. Canon Moock, Dean of the REC Seminary in Summerville took the microphone, and to the patient lay people who still crowded the Cathedral after three days of mostly academic lectures, he said: that after interviewing many Priests, he strongly felt that they, themselves, needed to get back to basics and learn about Jesus. His impassioned speech brought the house down as, in obvious sympathy, the Cathedral reverberated with applause.

The entire proceedings were recorded and CD's can be ordered through the Cathedral Bookshop.

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