

# Mutual Expectations

The Bishop and his people



## ANGLICAN BELIEF AND PRACTICE

### A Joint Affirmation of the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Anglican Province of America

October 4, 2001.

#### V. Ministry - Affirmation

It is thus affirmed that the **bishop** is the visible head of a particular church or portion of a church (e.g., a diocese) entrusted to him at his consecration; this headship makes him the ordinary president at all sacramental ministrations therein, and confers upon him the sole prerogative to ordain and confirm. Vested in the order of the episcopate is the faculty, by right of succession, to exercise singularly the spiritual authority that resides collectively in the Church within such canonical, provincial, or diocesan bounds as may apply in any given case.

It is also affirmed that **presbyters** are fellow overseers and elders with bishops, though theirs is an authority given by delegation and not by right of succession. Vested in the order of the presbyterate is the faculty to exercise collegially with the bishop spiritual authority in the Church within such canonical, provincial or diocesan bounds that may apply in any given case. Presbyters are entrusted at their ordination with the spiritual faculty to remit and retain sins through the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Church. Finally, in Anglican parlance, "presbyter" and "priest" are equivalent and are to be carefully distinguished from terms referring to the Old Testament sacrificial priesthood (e.g., Gr. hieros).

It is also affirmed that the order of **deacon** is a distinct ministry directly instituted by the Apostles in the early days of the Church for the service of charity. For this reason, the deacon retains a special relationship of submission and obedience to the bishop, who alone lays hands on him in ordination. According to the Ordinal, the spiritual graces conferred at the ordination of a deacon are the confirmation and strengthening of the charisms, or spiritual gifts, previously exhibited in a person's life, along with the authority to use these gifts representatively in the image of Christ the servant.

## Episcopal

Root word in the Greek – v. episkeptomai / n. episkopes

Epi – on

Skopos – look carefully or examine (telescope, microscope)

Other translations of the word episkeptomai (20) are ‘office’, ‘visitation’, ‘inspect’.

Overseer

1 Timothy 3:1-7: The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of **overseer**, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Titus 1:7-9: For an **overseer**, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1 Peter 5:1-3: So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising **oversight**, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Act 20:28: Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.



## Canon 16 – The Duties of Bishops

- He must live in his diocese (live among his people)
- He must visit the churches in his diocese (be visible)
- He must report about the diocese to the diocese (is accountable)

There is no such thing as an ivory tower bishop.

## Ordinal

“We will examine you...how you are minded to behave yourself in the Church of God.”

Questions and answers that mirror the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5

- Are you truly called?
- Doctrine (believing in and teaching God’s Word, condemning false teaching and feeding Christs’ flock)
- Godly living
- Seek peace while exercising discipline
- Faithfully ordaining - laying on of hands
- Generously help the needy
- Be an example to the flock

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: We ask you, brothers, to **respect** those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to **esteem** them very highly **in love** because of their work. Be at **peace** among yourselves.

Hebrews 13:7 & 17: Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and **imitate** their faith... **Obey** your leaders and **submit** to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Timothy 5:17: Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of **double honor**, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

St. James 4:6 – “God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble”.

Examples of rebellion against God-given authority:

- Numbers 12 – Miriam & Aaron
- Numbers 13 & 14 – “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt”
- 2 Kings 2:23-25 – Elisha
- 2 Samuel 18 – Saul, David, Absalom

St. Matthew 20:25-28: But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your **servant**, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your **slave**, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Philippians 2:5a: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus... (attitude)

QUESTIONS?