

ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL THEOLOGY

Module Six



Episcopal Diocese of Florida

Deacon School

June 2020

Opening Reflection

Reflect on this prior to beginning this Module and again when you complete all assignments.

Think about your childhood image of God. What aspects of your childhood contributed to that image? How has your image of God changed and why?

Objectives

After completing this module, the Postulant will be able to:

- ✓ Explain why theology (the study of God) is important;
- ✓ Understand the essentials of Anglican/Episcopal theology as expressed in the BCP and the 39 Articles;
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the breadth of Anglican theology and explain to other Christians the doctrines and practices of theology that are particular to the Anglican/Episcopal Church;
- ✓ Explain how theology and Christian living are interconnected;
- ✓ Recognize the expectations of the church and the unchurched that you, as an ordained minister of the Gospel, will encounter theologically;
- ✓ Explain ways that theology has changed through the centuries and how knowing the essential changes can help a deacon in ministering to and with people; and
- ✓ Articulate a personal theology as a member of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition.

Required Reading

The readings in this module represent a wide and broad view of Anglican Theology. The Module Six Mentor does not necessarily agree with all points. These readings were chosen to give you exposure to a broad view and engage you in developing your theological beliefs.

Davie, Martin, *The Gospel in the Anglican Tradition*, Reprint 2019: Great Britain: Gilead Books Publishing, 2018.

This book is a four-part study of what the gospel is and how it finds expression in the Anglican tradition.

McGrath, Alister, *Theology, the Basics. 4th edition*, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2018.

In this revised and expanded edition, the author introduces readers to the central ideas and beliefs, the key debates and the leading thinkers of Christianity. The text comprehensively covers the individual doctrines that form the Christian belief system, weaving together these doctrines, their history, and the intellectual nuance behind them into an inter-connected web.

McGrath, Alister, *Renewal of Anglicanism*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, Inc., 1993.

This book explores what has happened in Anglicanism, and how this might have a bearing on the future renewal of that church in the West. This book is offered as a contribution to the worldwide renewal of the church of Jesus Christ, as it prepares to face the third, and perhaps the most challenging to date, millennium of its existence.

Edward, David, *What Anglicans Believe in the 21st Century*. London: Bookcraft, LTD., 1974

What Anglicans Believe became a classic in the years following its publication in 1974. It has been re-written for a very different world to the point of being a renewed book with a new title. The new first chapter looks at the whole question of belief, which has become a much greater issue in the modern world. The purpose of this book is to help readers who are Anglicans in all parts of the world understand their own tradition and what it now has to offer.

Watson, David. *I Believe in the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978.

David Watson, an Anglican pastor in York, England discusses church building, not in brick and mortar, but in lives. He discusses practices he used in rebuilding a church that was on the brink of closing in 1965.

Supplementary Resources

Griffiss, James E., *Anglican Vision: The New Church's Teaching Series*, Volume One, 6th ed. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1997.

Griffiss presents an overview of the beginnings of Anglicanism, the Catholic and Evangelical renewal movements, and a survey of Anglican mission, theology and worship.

Holmes, Urban, *What is Anglicanism?* Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 1982.

This collection of essays surveys a variety of topics from a broad church perspective.

Migliore, Daniel L., *Faith Seeking Understanding: an Introduction to Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.

An introduction to Christian theology, which presents traditional doctrine in contemporary ways, this book, includes Migliore's commitment to hear and engage new voices in an accessible style.

Sykes, Stephen, Booty, John and Knight, Jonathan, *The Study of Anglicanism*, rev. ed. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1998.

This is a very useful series of essays on Anglican theology, polity and practice.

Wright, N.T., *The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus's Crucifixion*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2016.

The renowned scholar, Anglican bishop, and bestselling author widely considered to be the heir to C. S. Lewis contemplates the central event at the heart of the Christian faith—Jesus' crucifixion—arguing that the Protestant Reformation did not go far enough in transforming our understanding of its meaning. Wright argues that Jesus' crucifixion must be understood within the much larger story of God's purposes to bring heaven and earth together.

Online Resources

Episcopal Diocese of Florida, <http://www.diocesefl.org>. This is our Diocesan homepage.

The Episcopal Church. www.episcopalchurch.org

Anglicans Online, <http://anglicansonline.org>. A basic clearinghouse for all things Anglican.

Episcopal Café, <http://www.episcopalcafe.com>. This website contains Episcopal news of the day from a mainstream perspective.

N.T. Wright's page, <http://ntwrightpage.com>. This is a compendium of articles and talks by the past Bishop of Durham, one of the Church's leading theologians.

Assignments for Anglican Theology

Mentor: Jerry Smith

- 1) Using McGrath's book *Theology – The Basics* define and discuss in short essays each of the terms and concepts listed below. Include how these terms affect your personal beliefs.
 - a) Faith
 - b) God
 - c) Creation
 - d) Jesus
 - e) Salvation
 - f) Spirit
 - g) Trinity
 - h) Church
 - i) Sacraments
 - j) Heaven
- 2) "I can be religious and not go to church" may sound reasonable, but is it? Using David Watson ecclesiology convince the speaker that the Church is essential to effectively walk with Christ.
- 3) After reading *The Gospel in the Anglican Tradition*, develop an outline to use for teaching an adult formation class on the Gospels and how they inform Anglican belief and practice. Include the relationship of the Gospel to key documents in the Anglican tradition.
- 4) After reading *Renewal of Anglicanism*, identify the key principles/ideas that make you hopeful or not hopeful regarding the renewal of Anglicanism.
- 5) After reading *What Anglicans Believe in the 21st Century*, write a brief paragraph or two answering the questions on pages 115-116. It is important that your responses include your personal theology.
- 6) **SYNTHESIS** – After completing all the assignment, write your personal theology as a member of the Anglican Communion.

Module Six Evaluation

Anglican Theology

Postulant: _____

The mentor assess the Postulant's work on each assignment in the module. The mentor will document on this form, whether the assignment was completed satisfactorily. The mentor may add additional comments if desired. If the assignment is not completed satisfactorily, the mentor must add comments regarding the deficiencies. The mentor will review the evaluation with the Postulant and the Deacon School Co-facilitators.

	Assignment	Complete/Incomplete
1	Using McGrath's book <i>Theology – The Basics</i> define and discuss in a short essay each of the terms and concepts listed below. Include how these terms affect your personal beliefs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Faith b) God c) Creation d) Jesus e) Salvation f) Spirit g) Trinity h) Church i) Sacraments j) Heaven 	
2	"I can be religious and not go to church" may sound reasonable but is it? Using David Watson ecclesiology convince the speaker that the church is essential to effectively walk with Christ.	
3	After reading <i>The Gospel in the Anglican Tradition</i> , develop an outline to use to teach an adult formation class on the Gospels and how they inform Anglican belief and practice. Include the relationship of the Gospel to key documents in the Anglican tradition.	
4	After reading <i>Renewal of Anglicanism</i> , identify the key principles/ideas that make you hopeful or not hopeful regarding the renewal of Anglicanism.	
5	After reading <i>What Anglicans Believe in the 21st Century</i> , write a brief paragraph or two answering the questions on pages 115-116. It is important that your responses include your personal theology.	
6	SYNTHESIS – After completing all the assignment, write your personal theology as a member of the Anglican Communion/Episcopal Church.	

Signatures:

Mentor:

Postulant:

Date: _____

Date: _____