

An Open Door

Text: Rev 3.7 - July 8/9 '06

St. Stephen's Church

Sunday Attendance = 1,100

Diocese of Pittsburgh

72 Churches

Sunday Attendance = 7,964

Episcopal Church

106 Dioceses

2.3 Million People

Sunday Attendance = 800,000

Anglican Communion

38 International Provinces

78 Million People

What it is about:

Are we going to be a biblical church or not?

Presenting issue is sex outside of marriage.

We want to uphold God's standards

– sex is good and is made for marriage; outside of marriage destroys God's work

We want to uphold God's gospel –

- good news of forgiveness and healing and restored purity for those who have fallen

Last Week, A Stunning Moment

ABC: we are a biblical church

No need to revisit our sexual ethics (Lambeth 1998 stands)

Called for the creation of an Anglican Covenant (4-7 years?)

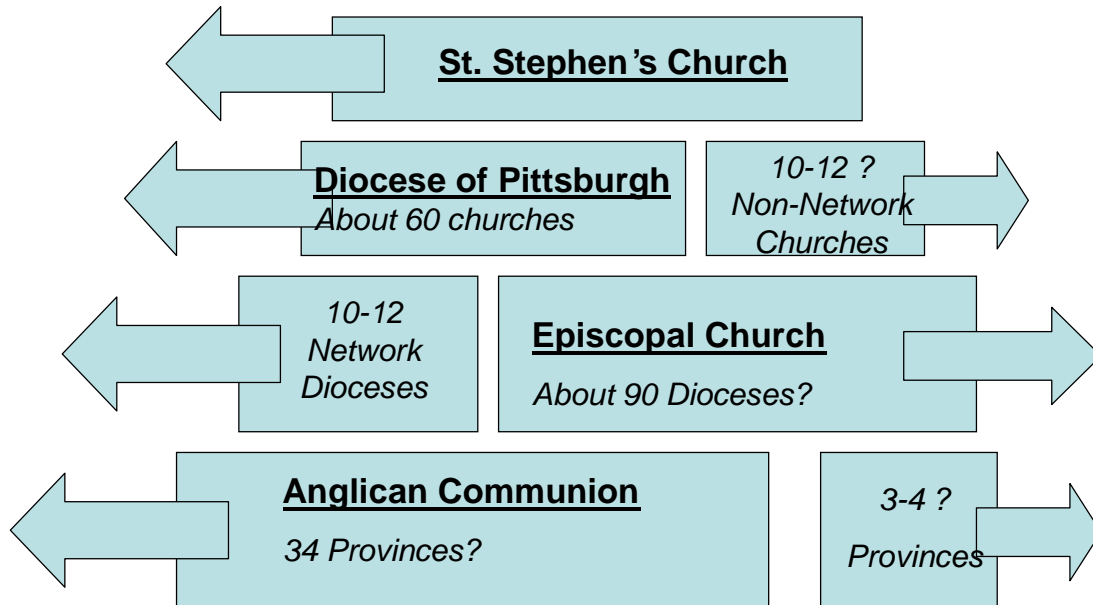
Constituent Membership Associate Membership

“An orderly and respectful separation”

Constituent Members
Covenant Affirming
Participate in Governance

Associate Members
Non-Covenant Affirming
Don't Participate in Governance

**Re-Alignment Taking 3-7 Years:
An "Orderly and Mutually Respectful Separation"**



The chokehold of the Episcopal Church has been broken.

God is Bringing Something Down and Raising Something Up

"To the angels of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. Rev. 3:7 (NIV)

The *big picture* is that God is **bringing something down** (the historic mainline denominations who have abandoned their biblical foundations) and **raising something up** (a network of biblically valued, mission driven, reformation rooted congregations and dioceses in vital union with our overseas partners) – and we are placed by God himself **in the riptides** of those dynamics to serve what He is raising up.

The **chokehold** of the Episcopal Church has been broken.

Growing indifference/ declining attendance/ Are people hungry? Reggie McNeal, p.59

God Has Opened A Door

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Re 3:8 (NIV)

This is a **door of salvation and mission**

„Pray that God would open a door. „God has opened a door...”

Clergy retreat: If God has his way with us...

What Kind Of Church Could We Be In 10 Years?

What Kind Of Leaders Lead That Church?

The old ways will not work in future years.

To Walk Through This Door, We Must Answer 4 Questions:

What Kind of People Shall We Send Out Into the World?

What Kind of Church Grows that Kind of People?

What Kind of Leaders Serve that Kind of Church?

What Kind of God Blesses This Kind of Mission?

What Kind of People Shall We Send Out Into the World?

Disciples on a Disciple Making Mission

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples... Mt 28:18-20

**Attractional vs Missional Coach: You aren't even on their radar screen!
You will have to get up and go!**

Andy Pulkowski: a dramatic shift how I need to think of my life. Even thinking about how we introduce one another....semantically it's a subtle twist but practically it is huge. "I'm Andy, I'm the IS Director for the largest law firm in town, married and have 4 kids from high school to 3rd grade." But a disciple is -- "I'm Andy, a Disciple of Christ -- assigned to the mission field of K&LNG and pastor for Sue, Bethany, Scott, Aubrey Grace and Rebekah."

Servants on a Serving Mission

the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life ...”
Mt 20:28 (NIV)

Humility unlocks the barriers.

Serving teenage pregnant moms in High Schools

I need your help to walk through this door.

