

A Brief Time line of the Anglican/Episcopal Church in America

1579 The chaplain of Sir Francis Drake's around-the-world trip led a service out of the Prayer Book on the shores of San Francisco Bay.

1587 August 18th Virginia Dare of Roanoke Virginia was the first person in North America to be baptised using the service from the Book of Common Prayer.

1607 The first christian worship services in Jamestown was conducted by an Anglican priest, Rev. Robert Hunt, on Pentecost.

1607 First Permanent congregation in Jamestown; Pocahontas baptized
This was a state-sponsored church, supported by taxes

1611 *The King James Bible is first published*

1693 Anglican Church "established" in NY, really what we'd call NYC
King's College begun as Anglican college (now Columbia University),
though William and Mary was first Anglican College in the Colonies

1700 by this year, there were 100 churches from MA to SC: 80% by the Chesapeake Bay

1704 *The Scottish Episcopal Church is formed.*

1750 Growth in New England of church: 44 congregations reported there

1776 EC the 2nd largest denomination in the Colonies (behind the Congregationalists)
400 Congregations and 300 clergy

Theology of the church

- known for free will and practical godliness (not emotionalism)
- Pulpit, baptismal font, and holy table central in churches
- Eucharist infrequent; services usually conducted entirely from the pulpit
- Episcopalians preferred non-itinerant, seminary educated clergy
- Sunday schools unknown
- no processions, crosses, hangings, candles and colors

Clergy: ordination given in England; 10 died returning to England for ordination

No bishop in the colonies; (read pg. 48)

an estimated 45% of clergy supported the Revolutionary cause

50% of those signing the Declaration of Independence were Anglicans (Deists??)

Thomas Jefferson served on the vestry of St. Anne's in Virginia

After the Revolutionary War, the church was disestablished

- In the South, more low church or "evangelical."
- In the North, more High Church or "Anglo Catholic"
- Protestant Episcopal church began its separate existence, determined to preserve its Anglican heritage but also committed to the new American ideals that the state shall not support or prohibit the exercise of Religion ("separation of Church and State" is not in the constitution).
- Unity has been maintained by commonly held traditions embodied in a constitution and canon law, the Book of Common Prayer, and the threefold ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons,

1784 Samuel Seabury, first Bishop of the Episcopal Church, is consecrated in Scotland.

- Seabury an English loyalist; nonetheless, he was turned away in England for episcopal consecration. Went to Scotland to be consecrated by "rebel," non-juring bishops in 1785
- he did not believe or promote lay participation at councils of the church

- 1784 The Methodist societies of the Episcopal Church broke away to become their own denomination—the Wesley Brothers
- 1785 The First General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in USA Constitution and Prayer Book ratified
- 1787 William White of Pennsylvania and Samuel Provoost of New York were consecrated bishops in England in 1787.
- first "presiding" bishop in the States
 - as church re-formed and took root, he proposed it have
 - 1) the three historic orders of ordained ministry (deacons, priests, bishops)
 - 2) that it be operated by the clergy and the laity (new).
 - Bishops now subject to the laity, not the crown.
- 1789 The constitution of the United States of America and of the Episcopal Church are drafted. William White is chaplain to Continental Congress and main drafter of ECUSA Constitution. The new church's full name is the Protestant Episcopal Church of America
- 1792 James Claggett made bishop in Maryland (first bishop consecrated on USA soil)
- 1817 General Theological Seminary was organized.
- 1821 The church's missionary endeavors led to the founding of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.
- 1860s Episcopal churches were founded by settlers in the newly opened regions of the West. During the Civil War the church was necessarily disunited, but at the General Conference of 1865 there was a full reunion.
- 1919 The general convention created the national council, later called the executive council, which absorbed the missionary society and other societies for education and social concerns. Also, until 1919 the presiding bishop's office was held by the church's most senior bishop. The first bishop to be elected presiding bishop was John Gardner Murray, bishop of Maryland, who served from 1926 to 1931.
- 1946 The General Convention designated the presiding bishop as the chief pastor and primate of the church, and removed the requirement that the presiding bishop also function as a diocesan bishop. (In 1994 the presiding bishop's term of office was reduced from twelve years to nine years.)
- 1967 The Church removed the word "Protestant" from her name.
- 1974 The first women were "irregularly" ordained priests in the Episcopal Church.
- 1979 The most recent Book of Common Prayer was published.
- 1982 Current Hymnal is approved.
- 1989 The consecration of Barbara Harris as the first woman bishop (not diocesan). This provoked dissenters to form the Episcopal Synod of America.
- 1993 Mary McLeod becomes the first women to be ordained as Bishop in the Episcopal Church
- 1997 St. Aidan's Episcopal Church formed.
- 1999 Establish Full Communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- 2001 Neil Alexander becomes Bishop of Atlanta.
- 2003 New Hampshire elects Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop. He is ratified at General Convention with more than some controversy, which still exists.