

doctrinal advisements of that body. In time, and under the general leadership of Charles Gore (d. 1932), the party developed a liberal wing that was prone to accept the findings of science and higher criticism...directly opposite to the initial ideas of the community. As an identity it has continued in the Anglican church and with the coming of the modern ecumenical movement has gained both status and influence.

The Lambeth Conferences...

Within the Anglican church a number of structural changes have taken place over the years and beginning in 1867 the Anglican bishops of the "world" began having conferences at Lambeth palace (London) seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury. These meetings tended to establish and emphasize the parity of bishops ideal of the communion and also to give the church a sounding board for policy statements. The conference has no power of decree or instruction but does offer advice and direction to the church. The Lambeth pronouncements have suggested a continuing breadth to the Anglican church as a body.

The Anglican Church has been the established church in England since the days of the Reformation. It has a brush with destiny in the Days of Mary Tudor and a moment of disfavor in the time of Charles I. It has survived a number of inter party and political assaults. The Prayer Book of 1552 has been revised a number of times...the forty two articles were reduced to the 39. Since 1970 lay persons have had equal voting rights on church councils and affairs...before 1954 lay representation was not known at these levels. The church structure is thoroughly hierarchical and a lot of authority is appended to various positions. The Episcopal church in the United States is something of a "nephew" church and you will find a few American Anglican churches as well. Grass roots fundamentalists have a hard time understanding the ritualists and often don't make any effort at all. But if you can see how different needs are met by different expressions you can understand and even sympathize with the Anglican expressions.