



# LIVING POSTCOLONIAL ANGLICANISM

PROSPECTS FOR A POLYCENTRIC  
ANGLICAN COMMUNION

**A symposium on the possibilities & challenges of a postcolonial, polycentric Anglican Communion convened by Dr. Kwok Pui Lan and the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, PhD**

**November 7, 2025  
Atlanta, Georgia**



# Schedule

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|-------------------|--|
| 8:30 - 9:30am     | <b>Registration</b> (at St. Luke's front entrance)   |
| 9:00 - 9:45am     | <b>Opening Prayer</b>  |
| 9:45 - 10:15am    | <b>Welcome &amp; Introduction *</b><br>The Very Rev. Lydia Kelsey Bucklin and the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, PhD   |
| 10:15 - 11:00am   | <b>Opening Presentation: Living Postcolonial Anglicanism *</b><br>Dr. Kwok Pui Lan   |
| 11:00 - 11:30am   | Break  |
| 11:30am - 12:45pm | <b>Panel: Prospects for a Polycentric Anglican Communion *</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe '92</li><li>• Dr. Jenny Te Paa-Daniel</li><li>• Archdeacon Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm</li><li>• The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls</li><li>• The Rev. Cn. Stephanie Spellers</li></ul>  |
| 12:45 - 1:45pm    | Lunch  |
| 2:00 - 3:00pm     | <b>Self-Select Groups I:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Self-Determination as Indigenous Anglicans and Ecojustice</b> with Archdeacon Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm</li><li>• <b>Liturgy as Mission and Mission as Liturgy</b> with the Rev. Dr. Luiz Carlos Teixeira Coelho</li><li>• <b>Shattering the Ceiling of Power: Women's Leadership and Ministry</b> with Dr. Esther Mombo and the Rev. Godfrey Owino Adera</li><li>• <b>Reimagining Mission: A Postcolonial Approach for the Anglican Communion</b> with the Rev. Dr. Jesse Zink</li></ul>   |
| 3:00 - 3:15pm     | Transition Break   |
| 3:15 - 4:15pm     | <b>Self-Select Groups II:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Exploring Human Sexuality in Postcolonial African Churches</b> with the Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe '92</li><li>• <b>Christian Unity and Witness in Global Perspective: Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue Across Cultures and Continents</b> with the Rev. Canon Salmoon Bashir</li><li>• <b>Voicing Postcolonial Anglican Theology</b> with the Rev. Dr. Robert S. Heaney</li><li>• <b>Reimagining Anglican Communion Structures</b> with the Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb</li></ul> |
| 4:15 - 5:00pm     | <b>Concluding Plenary Session</b>  |
| 5:00 - 5:15pm     | Break  |
| 5:15 - 6:00pm     | <b>Evening Prayer *</b>  |
| 6:00pm            | Dinner   |

\* indicates that this segment will be livestreamed to EDS's YouTube channel

## About this Symposium

Anglicanism is undergoing a significant transformation as the majority of Anglicans now live in the Global South. This demographic shift necessitates a critical examination of the evolving cultural dynamics and power structures within the Anglican Communion.

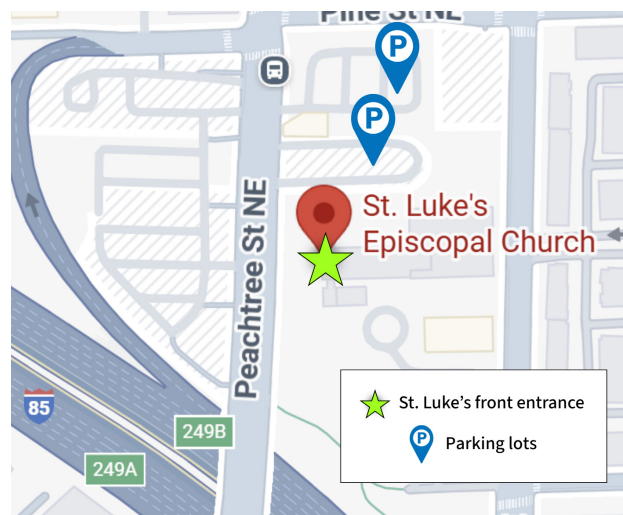
This one-day symposium will bring together leaders from across the global Anglican Communion and U.S.-based clergy and lay leaders curious to learn more about the possibilities and challenges of an increasingly postcolonial and polycentric Anglican Communion. Anglican leaders from around the world will participate in the symposium as both presenters and workshop leaders. Together, we'll seek to better understand and appreciate differences across the Anglican Communion while engendering a deeper sense of unity and common participation in God's mission as Anglicans globally.

The symposium also celebrates the release of a new collection of essays by global Anglican leaders, *Living Postcolonial Anglicanism: Prospects for a Polycentric Anglican Communion* (Bloomsbury, 2025), edited by Dr. Kwok Pui Lan and the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas.

## Accessing the Venue: St. Luke's, Atlanta

St. Luke's address is **435 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA 30308**.

Drive onto the St. Luke's campus using the entrance off of Peachtree St. You can park in the U shaped lot or the lot immediately north of it, as shown on the map. Registration will take place at the front entrance of the church, indicated by the green star.



## Program for Friday, November 7: Symposium

### Panel: Prospects for a Polycentric Anglican Communion \*

#### Panelists:

- **The Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe '92**, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana
- **Dr. Jenny Te Paa-Daniel**, Professor Emeritus at St. John's Theological College in Auckland, New Zealand
- **Archdeacon Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm**, Archdeacon of Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministries in the Diocese of Huron in Ontario, Canada
- **The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls**, former Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada
- **The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers '04**, widely known across The Episcopal Church and beyond for her prophetic wisdom and witness of 21st-century ministry and mission

## Self-Select Groups I (during first breakout on Friday)

### Self-Determination as Indigenous Anglicans & Ecojustice

Settler colonialism is an insidious form of colonialism that impacts Indigenous and tribal peoples and their habitats. Using the Canadian church as an example, this workshop highlights the complicity of churches in settler colonialism and the work of healing and reconciliation that is long overdue. It also highlights theological voices of Indigenous theologians and leaders from various parts of the Anglican Communion.

*Leader:* **Archdeacon Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm** is Oneida and the Archdeacon of Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministries in the Diocese of Huron in Ontario, Canada. She serves as the Director of Indigenous Ministries for the Anglican Church of Canada.

### Shattering the Ceiling of Power: Women's Leadership & Ministry

With the demographic shift of the Anglican Communion to the Global South, the power dynamics in the Communion have changed. This workshop examines this shift from an African perspective, using an intersectional approach of race, gender, and sexuality. Citing the stories of six African female bishops as examples, the workshop explores women's leadership and ministry, reimagining Anglican witness as "withness."

*Leader:* **Dr. Esther Mombo** is a professor at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, teaching church history and theologies from women's perspectives. She is a member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians and the coeditor of *Broken Hearts and Bruised Bodies: Powerful Stories of the Life and Faith of Women in the Reformed Church of East Africa*.

**The Rev. Godfrey Owino Adera** is a priest in the Anglican Church of Kenya, a PhD candidate, and an adjunct lecturer at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya. He is an associate member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians and serves in the Kenyan office as the program assistant.

### Reimagining Mission: A Postcolonial Approach for the Anglican Communion

This workshop explores how postcolonial analysis challenges the long-standing center-periphery dynamics that have marked Anglican mission. Drawing on historical examples and ecumenical insights, this workshop invites participants to consider how contrapuntal listening and local Christian unity can reshape global mission practices. Join us for a conversation on Anglicans can move beyond denominational boundaries toward a more just and contextually rooted witness.

*Leader:* **The Rev. Dr. Jesse Zink** is Principal of Montreal Diocesan Theological College and canon theologian in the Diocese of Montreal in the Anglican Church of Canada. His most recent book is *Faithful, Creative, Hopeful: Fifteen Theses for Christians in a Crisis-Shaped World*.

### Liturgy as Mission & Mission as Liturgy

This workshop examines the revisions and reimagining of Anglican liturgy influenced by the liturgical movement and ecumenical movements in the twentieth century. It aims to present a fresh perspective on what constitutes an "Anglican" liturgical tradition. This new perspective seeks to honor the heritage of the past while shedding colonial vestiges and embracing the essence of diversity, all while acknowledging the prominent theological principles that define contemporary Anglicanism.

*Leader:* **The Rev. Dr. Luiz Carlos Teixeira Coelho** is the Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer of the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil and a professor at the Rio de Janeiro State University, affiliated with the School of Engineering and the Program of Liturgy and Art. He is the coeditor of the Oxford Handbook of the Book of Common Prayer.

## Self-Select Groups II (during second breakout on Friday)

### Voicing Postcolonial Anglican Theology

This workshop is an invitation to give voice to Anglican postcolonial theology and postcolonial discipleship. First, we will reflect on how Anglicans justified empire in appeals to providence, transactional theology, and power. Second, we will learn how contextual, liberative, and anti-imperialist vision can resource witness today. Third, we consider some practical implications for international fellowship, witness, and the future shape of the Anglican Communion.

*Leader: The Rev. Dr. Robert S. Heaney*, Professor of Theology and Mission at Virginia Theological Seminary, is an author and editor of a number of books and articles on postcolonialism and Anglican identity. These include *Post-Colonial Theology: Finding God and Each Other Amidst the Hate* and, with William L. Sachs, *The Promise of Anglicanism*.

### Ecumenical & Interreligious Dialogue Across Cultures & Continents

This workshop explores the pursuit of Christian unity and ecumenical relations amidst religious persecution and conflicts in different parts of the world. Using South Asia as an example, this workshop highlights the importance of Islamic-Christian dialogue and Christian witness across differences. The workshop introduces the vision and practice of interreligious dialogue of Anglican churches at local, national, and international levels.

*Leader: Canon Salmoon Bashir*, originally from Pakistan, is Canon for Liturgy and Ecumenism at the Cathedral of St. Philip's in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He is a part of various ecumenical and interreligious dialogue committees and conciliar bodies representing The Episcopal Church nationally and internationally. He has provided leadership in diverse, multicultural, and multifaith spaces in the US, Pakistan, Iraq, the UK, and the Republic of Georgia.

### Reimagining Anglican Communion Structures

Anglican leaders have debated whether current Anglican Communion Structures and the Instruments of Communion need to be reformed to address the changing demographics and power dynamics in the church. This workshop explores the issues and tensions within the current structure and reimagines new possibilities. It introduces the Nairobi-Cairo proposal being discussed by the Anglican Consultative Council and responses from The Episcopal Church.

*Leader: The Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb* is an affiliated faculty member and director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary. She is a member of the Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion and serves on The Episcopal Church's Task Force on the Anglican Communion and Countering the Colonial Mindset and part of its subgroup responding to the Nairobi-Cairo proposal.

### Exploring Human Sexuality in Postcolonial African Churches

This workshop discusses matters of human sexuality from the perspective of an African bishop. Bishop Atta-Baffoe has been active in the Chicago Consultation, which has promoted cross-cultural conversations, especially between American Episcopalians and African Anglicans, about the Bible and justice, sexuality, and interlocking oppressions. This workshop highlights the bishop's experience and vision in working for justice for people of all sexualities.

*Leader: The Rt. Rev. Victor R. Atta-Baffoe '92* is Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana and was the Dean of St. Nicholas Seminary, Cape Coast, Ghana, for twelve years. He was a member of the Inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission and has published on ancestral cults and the church in Ghana, ministerial formation and theological education, and living in Communion within Anglicanism.

## Convenors



**Dr. Kwok Pui Lan**

**Dr. Kwok Pui Lan** is an internationally recognized theologian in postcolonial theology and Asian and Asian American feminist theology, currently serving as EDS' Distinguished Scholar.

Dr. Kwok has shaped a generation of theological scholarship and formed countless students. Most recently, she was Dean's Professor of Systematic Theology at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and a past president of the American Academy of Religion. Before that, she was William F. Cole Professor of Christian Theology and Spirituality at EDS, where she taught for twenty-five years.

She has authored and edited numerous books on Asian and Asian American feminist theology, biblical interpretation, and postcolonial criticism. She is the author of *The Anglican Tradition from a Postcolonial Perspective* and editor of *Transpacific Political Theology*. She received the Lanfranc Award for Education and Scholarship from the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2021.



**The Rt. Rev.  
Ian T. Douglas**

**The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas** served as the 15th Bishop Diocesan of The Episcopal Church in Connecticut from 2010 to 2022. He was the Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity at the Episcopal Divinity School from 1989 to 2010.

He worked as a Volunteer for Mission in the Episcopal Church of Haiti from 1983 to 1984. He has been a member of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and Chair of the Standing Commission on World Mission. He was the founder of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation and co-founded Bishops United Against Gun Violence. He is the Vice Chair of the Board of the Episcopal Church Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice.

In the Anglican Communion, Bishop Douglas served on the Anglican Consultative Council, Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion, Design Group for the 2008 Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops, and Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism.

A sought-after speaker nationally and internationally, he is the author and editor of four books and numerous academic and popular articles on the topics of mission, the missional Church, contemporary Anglicanism, and world Christianity.

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