A GROWING MOVEMENT: THE FUTURE OF ORTHODOX ANGLICANISM

WHEATON, Ill.—With a membership of approximately eighty-five million worldwide, the Anglican Communion is the third largest Christian body in the world, after the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox churches. In recent years, its center of gravity has moved to the Global South, where new understandings of Anglicanism have emerged amidst spiritual vitality and dynamic church growth. But many people, even Anglicans themselves, don’t really understand what sets today’s Anglicanism apart from some of its history and distinguishes it from other Christian denominations.

In *The Future of Orthodox Anglicanism* (Crossway, February 2020), Anglican priest and professor Gerald McDermott and a team of twelve leading orthodox Anglican scholars and leaders representing perspectives from East Africa, North Africa, and North America—as well as both a Baptist and a Roman Catholic observer—describe what distinguishes Anglicanism from other Protestant denominations.

“Anglicans define themselves as those Christians whose worship originates from the Book of Common Prayer, and whose intensive reading of Scripture is provided by the Anglican lectionary. The common use of the prayer book, which is thoroughly biblical, keeps Anglicans grounded in Scripture,” writes Archbishop Eliud Wabukala of Nigeria. “But Anglicanism is also a sacramental way of following Jesus Christ. Because of this emphasis on both Scripture and sacrament, Anglicanism is both Catholic and Protestant in form.”

As Anglicanism continues to grow around the world, “it is attracting more and more evangelicals who hunger for connections to the early church and its attention to mystery, sacraments, and liturgy,” writes McDermott. “It should become clear to those with eyes to see that historic Christianity has moved south with an Anglicanism deeply attached to Scripture and creeds but rejecting some of the ways of the grandparents who gave it a name.” This book seeks to help people new to the denomination understand more deeply what Anglicanism is by reflecting on the tradition’s rich legacy in the past while also offering a winsome proposal for the future.

*The Future of Orthodox Anglicanism* is divided into three sections:

1. Regional Perspectives on Anglicanism
2. Vocational Perspectives on Anglicanism
3. Ecclesiastical Perspectives on Anglicanism

Continued
Each chapter answers two important questions: *What is the deep character of Anglicanism that distinguishes it from other Christian traditions?* and *Where should the Communion go in the future?*

“Anglicanism is an important part of world Christianity today. Although recently fractured, its orthodox members are alive and well. [These] essays provide a careful assessment of this vital movement, and therefore an important forecast of its future,” writes McDermott.

**ABOUT THE EDITOR**

**Gerald R. McDermott** (PhD, University of Iowa) is a renowned Jonathan Edwards scholar and an Anglican priest. He serves as the Anglican Professor of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School. He is the author and editor of several books.

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